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# “GUN CONTROL? YOU WON'T BELIEVE THEIR PLANS FOR FOOD...”

Bad News...

Washington has an agenda, and it's MORE than just your guns and ammo.

They think people like you and me are a bit “odd.” They don't understand why we keep firearms and a food stockpile in case of crisis.

But those people are just hiding their heads in the sand. They are dead wrong -- and you are dead right.

You've seen the evidence and you know the situation is way too serious not to do something about it. When a crisis hits, you'll be ready. You'll make darn sure your family won't go hungry.

The fact is, if you don't take action or if you stockpile the wrong foods, you could be setting your family up to starve. It sounds harsh, but the truth is too many people with good intentions are making critical mistakes with their food stockpiles.

## MISTAKES LIKE...

- ▶ Buying MREs (meals ready to eat) with a 5 year shelf life (depending on where you buy them, they could be nearly expired)...
- ▶ Getting gross survival foods that taste terrible and are so high in salt, MSG and preservatives you could clog your arteries and get yourself sick...
- ▶ Or simply buying the wrong foods and leaving a critical hole in your meal plan, which means your family can become malnourished...

Well, I decided to stop worrying. Obviously, waiting for the government to give me a handout in a disaster just wasn't an option for me. And I was completely turned off by the crazy prices of survival food sold by most stores.

So I got in touch with my buddy Frank Bates and put my order in for his Food4Patriots survival food kits.

## THIS IS FRANK'S NEW LINE OF SURVIVAL FOOD:

- ▶ **Food4Patriots is an incredible value.** This high quality survival food is without any fillers or poor-quality “franken-food” that the other guys use to pad their survival meals. They are made and packaged right here in the U.S.A. You won't believe the prices on these kits – a fraction of the price that other brands charge.
- ▶ There's no fancy packaging, it's military-grade sturdy stuff and can stand up to the crazy things that happen in a crisis. This food has a **shelf life of up to 25 years**, so you have complete peace of mind for the long term. And he's using the most compact kits so you can store them anywhere in your home without any extra hassle. They're sturdy, waterproof and stack easily. And extremely covert too.
- ▶ You can make these meals in less than 20 minutes; just add boiling water, simmer, and serve. I tried 'em and I think **they taste as good or better than any other survival food I've EVER had.** And you get a whole slew of choices, including breakfast, lunch and dinner so you don't get stuck eating the same thing day-in and day-out.
- ▶ Frank has come up with some impressive FREE bonuses that are ONLY available to folks who purchase one of his kits on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, my 3-month kit came with 5,400+ heirloom survival seeds, 4 hard copy books, an 11-in-1 survival tool, and some other cool stuff.



*Protect your family in a crisis with 25-year shelf life survival food from [getfood112.com](http://getfood112.com)*

I want to make sure you don't miss out on this because this is the #1 item to hoard today.

Here's why... If you don't take action to get your food stockpile right now, you'll be in the same boat as the brainwashed masses who think “everything is fine.” And if a crisis hits and your family asks, “What are we going to eat?” your mouth will go dry and you'll feel powerless.

But what if you decide right now to secure your food stockpile instead? Just imagine how much better you'll feel right away. And if a crisis hits and your family asks, “What are we going to eat?” you'll calmly reassure them that they're safe and they will have plenty to eat.

Listen, I can't predict the future. I don't know exactly when or how a crisis will hit. But from everything I see, it could be soon and it could be a big one. That's why I really want you to get the same peace of mind that I do.

P.S. Got a call from Frank and you'll never believe who just tried to buy up his entire supply of food! You'll be shocked!

**LOG-ON NOW TO [GETFOOD112.COM](http://GETFOOD112.COM)**

**12****22****30****42****54****90**

12: MIKE DICKERSON  
22: REPUBLIC FORGE  
30: GARRETT LUCAS  
42: MIKE DICKERSON  
54: DAVE WORKMAN  
90: PHIL MASSARO



# Features

## 12 All American

You may not have heard of Republic Forge, but the firm is quickly making a name for itself with true U.S.-built, customized 1911 pistols.

*By Mike Dickerson*

## 22 The Perfect 10

Republic Forge's custom-built Long Slide is a powerful pistol that's great for hunting, target shooting or defense.

*By Brad Fitzpatrick*

## 30 The Two-in-One Gun

With the .45 Auto/.45 Long Colt Redhawk, Ruger has taken a tried and true firearm and made it new again.

*By Garrett Lucas*

## 42 Going Long

If you think a lightweight AR-10 can't be accurate at long distance, it's time for you to test the Smith & Wesson M&P10.

*By Mike Dickerson*

## 54 X Marks the Spot

Browning's X-Bolt Hunter in .308 Winchester (and 15 other calibers) is handsome, easy carrying...and rocks right out of the box.

*By Dave Workman*

## 90 Big Game Beast

The Heym Express Bolt-Action Rifle in .404 Jeffery

*By Phil Massaro*

# Columns

**6 Up Front** - Craig Hodgkins

**8 New Products** - Tim Stetzer

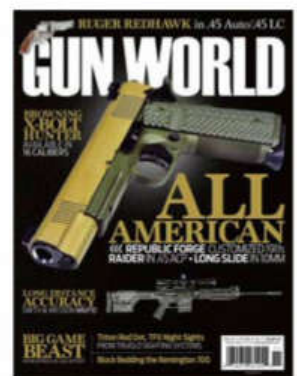
**64 Today's Hunter** - Thomas C. Tabor

**70 Reload** - James E. House

**76 Handguns** - Dave Workman

**82 Gunsmithing** - Steve Sieberts

**98 Back Pages** - Craig Hodgkins



# GUN WORLD

# What Do You Know?

TEXT BY CRAIG HODGKINS

**I** NFORMATION IS POWER? NAH.

These days, there is nothing so cheap as information.

Just ask your smart phone a question, and she'll give you some sort of answer, even if it has absolutely nothing to do with your original inquiry.

If you don't talk to your phone (at least in public) there's always Google and a dozen other search engines. Just type in a few words or part of a sentence, and you'll receive a near instantaneous deluge of information that may or may not be relevant to your particular need.

And because we can get some sort of answer to our questions, we can easily fall into the habit of thinking that we really know stuff, even if it's only to win a bet or an argument.

But how do you convert all of that information into useful knowledge?

My oldest daughter, a college senior, spent her entire summer in Germany conducting research for her Honors thesis. I looked through her notes—more than 200 typed single-spaced pages...in German—when she returned, and they were a perfect illustration of the difference between information and knowledge.

If she simply turned in those information-packed notes, her advisor would kick them back in a heartbeat. Information is

simply the first step. She will spend the entire school year examining them and other sources to produce a thesis that provides intelligent and useful knowledge on her chosen topic.

Too much information, now so easily obtained via technology, can be debilitating rather than enlightening.

I'm apt to agree with the late Daniel Boorstin, who said (among many other things), "Technology is so much fun but we can drown in [it]. The fog of information can drive out knowledge...the greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance - it is the illusion of knowledge."

Why all this chatter about information versus knowledge? Well, we always appreciate it when you share your knowledge with us, so please continue to send notes and emails detailing what you'd like to read and see between these covers, from products and topics we may not currently cover (or cover too much) and other expertise you want to receive. Our desire is to continually improve, and your feedback will help.

"Knowledge is not simply another commodity," Boorstin cautioned. "On the contrary. Knowledge is never used up. It increases by diffusion and grows by dispersion."

I look forward to hearing from you!

*CRAIG*

# GUN WORLD

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**BROWNING**



### A5 Hunter

Item #: **0118003004**  
 Caliber: **12 Gauge**  
 Sights: **Fiber Optic Front**  
 Capacity: **4+1**  
 BBL: **28"**

- Black Anodized / Blue Finish
- Gloss Finish Walnut Stock
- Three Invector DS Choke Tubes (F,M,IC)
- Lightweight Aluminum Alloy Receiver
- Recoil Operated Kinematic Drive

**BERETTA**



### A400 Xtreme KO

Item #: **J40XV10**  
 Caliber: **12 Gauge**  
 Sights: **Metal Bead Front**  
 Capacity: **4+1**  
 BBL: **30"**

- MAX-S Camo Finish
- Kick-Off Stock System
- Optima HP Field (Full, Mod, IC)
- Gas Operated with Compensating Valve

**BERETTA**



### Tikka T3 Forest

Item #: **JRTF616**  
 Caliber: **308**  
 Sights: **No Sights**  
 Capacity: **3+1**  
 BBL: **22.438"**

- Blue Finish
- Checkered Walnut Stock
- Adjustable Trigger
- Detachable Box Magazine
- 1" Scope Rings

**Marlin**



### 336W with Scope

Item #: **336W-W/S**  
 Caliber: **30-30**  
 Sights: **FT: Hooded Ramp**  
**RR: Adjustable**  
**Semi-Buckhorn**  
 Capacity: **6+1**  
 BBL: **20"**

- Matte Black Finish
- Walnut Finished Hardwood Stock
- Mounted & Bore Sighted
- 3-9x32mm Scope
- 1-10" Rifling

**MOSSBERG**



### Model 500 3 In 1 Home Defense, Hunting & Cruiser

Item #: **51482**  
 Caliber: **12 Gauge**  
 Sights: **Bead**  
 Capacity: **5+1**  
 BBL: **28" & 18.5"**

- Blue Finish
- Black Synthetic Stock & Pistol Grip
- 28" Multi-Choke (Full, Mod, IC)
- 18.5" Cylinder Bore

**Remington**



### 783 Scoped Combo

Item #: **85844**  
 Caliber: **270**  
 Sights: **No Sights**  
 Capacity: **4+1**  
 BBL: **22"**

- Matte Blue Finish
- Black Synthetic Stock
- Mounted 3-9x40mm Scope
- Cross-Fire Adjustable Trigger
- Pillar Bedding
- 13.375" Length of Pull

**Remington**



### 870 Express Compact

Item #: **81150**  
 Caliber: **20 Gauge**  
 Sights: **Front Bead**  
 Capacity: **4+1**  
 BBL: **21"**

- Matte Black Finish
- Mossy Oak Pink Blaze Camo Stock and Fore-End
- Multi-Choke (Mod)
- Vent Rib
- 13" Length of Pull

**RUGER**



### Ruger American Left-Hand

Item #: **6932**  
 Caliber: **243**  
 Sights: **No Sights**  
 Capacity: **4+1**  
 BBL: **22"**

- Matte Stainless Steel Finish
- Black Composite Stock
- Marksman Adjustable Trigger
- Power Bedding
- Free Floating Barrel

**WEATHERBY**



### Vanguard S2

Item #: **VGT300WR40**  
 Caliber: **300WBY**  
 Sights: **No Sights**  
 Capacity: **3+1**  
 BBL: **24"**

- Matte Blue Finish
- Gryptonite Stock
- Adjustable Trigger
- 1-10" Rifling
- Sling Swivel Studs

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# POWERFUL PAIR

FROM PISTOLS TO PLINKERS, TRUGLO PROVIDES SIGHTING SYSTEMS FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF FIREARMS

► TEXT BY TIM STETZER, PHOTOS BY JIM HOLMAN

**T**RUGLO PRODUCES AN EXTENSIVE product line including bow sights and archery equipment, binoculars, traditional magnified optics, red dot sights and fiber optic and night sights. In other words, if you've got a projectile weapon of just about any sort, TruGlo will make it easier for you to hit your intended target.

This summer I worked with a pair of the company's newer offerings, the Triton 20mm

Red Dot sight and their TFX night sights, and I've developed a good feel for what each system has to offer.

## TRUGLO TRITON RED DOT

The Triton 20mm is a compact red dot style sight that's geared toward target shooting and hunting. It's a lightweight and compact sight that is weather and shock resistant, and is suitable for mounting on shotguns, handguns, rifles, muzzleloaders, paintball markers and crossbows. It will also work par-

ticularly well on a target pistol or semi-automatic rifle. TruGlo apparently thinks so too since they ship the Triton on a high base suitable for co-witnessing iron sights on an AR-15 type platform. If you want a lower mount for a target pistol or a shotgun, they also provide a lower base.

Both bases mount on a Weaver or Picatinny rail and secure through a single screw that can be hand tightened and snugged up with an Allen wrench. The sight is powered by a single 3-volt CR2032 battery and, accord-



**FAR LEFT** The TruGlo Triton 20mm is a compact, lightweight three-color dot sight perfect for hunting and target use. It has a simple and easy to use control knob and windage and elevation turrets with caps slotted for use as adjustment tools.

**LEFT** The fiber optic inserts on the TFX make the sights highly visible whenever any ambient light is available.

ing to the folks at TruGlo, will get about 100 hours of battery life on mid-level brightness.

While not on par with some dot sights on the market, such as TruGlo's new Tru-Tec sights which provide a whopping 30,000 hours on low, the math still works out to 50 two-hour

range sessions. So, if you shoot an average of once a week, you'll only need to swap your battery out about once a year.

What really sets the Triton apart from other sights is that it's actually a three-color sight, thus the "Tri" part of Triton. This added versatility allows you to pick the dot (red, green or blue) that works best in the lighting conditions you're shooting in and against the targets that you're using. It's a nice bit of versatility that allows quite a bit of customization between brightness and color choice to really make the sight work best for you, no matter what kind of shooting you happen to be doing.

While I tested the Triton on one of my 5.56mm ARs, the sight ended up finding a home on my S&W M&P 15-22, and for a very good reason.

While teaching my right handed ten-year-old son to shoot, we discovered that he's left eye dominant. An adult shooter with the same traits advised me that a red dot sight allows you to shoot with both eyes open. Since I wanted to help make shooting fun for my son and encourage him to keep working at it, I hoped that shooting with a dot sight on steel with its immediate positive reinforcement would help accomplish that.

At a prior range session I'd mounted the Triton to my Smith & Wesson AR and sighted it in at 25 yards. The TruGlo Triton website insisted that the reticle was pre-set to be aligned with the mounting base of the sight, and that proved to be the case. I shot on steel plates and found the Triton to be a great match up for that rifle.

I took my son along on my next trip. Although previous range trips had been rather frustrating for him, he gave it another try. I ran him through the safe operation of the Smith & Wesson and then set him up on the range with a steel coyote silhouette target from Shot Force targets. I was amazed at how fast he adapted to the Triton on the Smith. Before, he'd had trouble even hitting the paper at 10 yards, but now he was banging away at the silhouette at 25 yards with regular hits on the 3.5-inch flipper plate in the target's chest area. Needless to say we were both very pleased.

Between my own testing of the Triton and the time with my son, I've walked away impressed. It's a great training tool for me, especially on the M&P 15-22 under-study gun. It also proved to be an excellent tool for giving my son the confidence to come back to the range and keep learning.

MSRP on the Triton is a very reasonable \$160.00 (as tested) with both low and high mounts. If you don't need the high mount you can get the Triton with only the lower mount for \$123.00.

## TRUGLO TFX NIGHT SIGHTS

Nearly a year ago, I mounted TruGlo's TFP Tritium and fiber optic night sights on the Glock 27 that I carry for work as a police detective, and I've been impressed with their visibility in all lighting conditions. So when TruGlo asked if I would check out the new TFX sights, I didn't hesitate. This time I opted to test them on my off duty gun, a Glock 42 in .380 ACP. It made sense to have a similar sight system on both pistols, and this method would also allow me to compare the sights on comparable guns.

The TFX sights are similar to the TFOs but offer a number of improvements designed to improve durability. The TFX sights feature a Fortress Finish, a protective coating that, along with the fully encapsulated and hermetically sealed Swiss tritium vials, makes the sights impervious to oils, chemicals,



The Triton comes with both a high and low mount that is secured to a Weaver or Picatinny rail via a single screw.



The high mount that comes with the Triton is perfect for AR platform rifles.

cleaning solvents and ultra-sonic cleaning processes. TFX sights are CNC machined from solid steel and built so that the target can't see the fiber optic inserts.

I mounted my sights with the assistance of my department's armorer, but we ran into one minor glitch; we couldn't tighten the front sight screw down enough to snug up the sight. This baffled us until I realized that I'd left something sandwiched between the cardboard packaging of the sight. Pulling the cardboard out of the plastic clamshell, I found a small envelope containing an Allen wrench and additional front sight screw, which turned out to be just what we needed



for the Glock 42. So make that sure you have both screws before you throw out the packaging.

TruGlo lists the TFX sights as being snag resistant and able to fit standard holsters. I found that to be generally true, although I did find some drag with the long front sight on my nylon DeSantis Nemesis IWB holster. Not significant, but noticeable over the factory Glock sight. I had no issues with the Blackhawk Serpa, custom Kydex or leather pocket holsters that I have for my Glock 42.

I've worked with the TFX sights on my Glock 42 for nearly six months now, with heavy carry over the hot summer months. They've held up well after routine shooting, sweaty carry and regular cleaning. The fiber optic sights are easy to pick up and positively glow in the daylight, even in over-cast conditions. At night, the tritium kicks in and makes it possible to pick up the sights even in pitch-black conditions.

I haven't really had any major problems or complaints with the older TFO sights on my Glock 27, but it is comforting to know that the TFX models step things up a bit with an even more durable model that will be finding its way into duty and defense holsters in the future.

Whereas the TFO sights use a yellow rear sight and green front, the TFX sights are green for both front and rear. The TFX sights are available for a wide variety of common defensive handguns like the FN FNX series, Glocks (including the 42 and 43), CZ-75s, the H&K P30, Kahr's, Kimber, Ruger SR and LC models, Smith & Wesson M&Ps as well as a number of Novak style sights. MSRP is \$172.00 for a full set or \$86.00 for just the front sight for Beretta PX4 Storm pistols. **GW**



The fiber optic inserts on the TFX make the sights highly visible whenever any ambient light is available.



The TFX sights use a low profile snag resistant design. The sight bases are CNC machined from solid steel and feature enclosed fronts so that the fiber optic inserts aren't visible to the target.

The TruGlo TFX sights are available for a wide range of common defense handguns, including the popular Glock 42.

### CONTACT

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[TruGlo.com](http://TruGlo.com)



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# ALL AMERICAN

YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF **REPUBLIC FORGE**...YET...BUT THE FIRM IS QUICKLY MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF WITH TRUE U.S.-BUILT, **CUSTOMIZED 1911 PISTOLS.**

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY MIKE DICKERSON

**I**N AN AGE DOMINATED by the ubiquitous black plastic pistol, how does one explain the enduring appeal of the 1911? It can be partly explained by the fact that a cocked-and-locked 1911 remains a formidable defensive weapon in the right hands. That, to some extent, is attributable to the man-stopper reputation of the .45 ACP cartridge. Another factor, without question, is the 1911's great ergonomics.

But the pistol's undying popularity can't be explained by those factors alone. There's a special mystique about the 1911. It's a hefty, hand-filling, manly man's gun. When you pick one up, you're picking up a piece of red, white and blue history. Wrap your hand around the grip of a 1911, and you are instantly connected to generations of Americans who employed a 1911 in defense of home and country. It conjures up names like Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima and the tunnels of Cu Chi.

The 1911 is a pure, cold-steel-and-hot-lead slice of America, brother.

It is also, without question, the single most popular pistol platform for customization in history. Since the 1950s, gunsmiths have been customizing virtually every component of the basic 1911, from finish, grips and checkering to custom barrels, hammers, triggers, sears and sights. What began with a handful of tinkering gunsmiths has turned into a full-blown industry with a host of custom 1911 makers, as represented by such names as Baer, Brown and Wilson, to name a notable few.

There's no shortage of custom 1911-makers today, and there wouldn't seem to be a lot of space in the market for a newcomer, but one firm that's quickly making a name for itself is Texas-based Republic Forge, which began turning out eye-catching 1911s in early 2014.







Republic Forge 1911s are built one at a time, start to finish, by a single gunsmith using all U.S.-made parts. The author tested seven different factory loads in the Raider, and all produced best groups at 25 yards measuring less than three inches.



Republic Forge lets you mix and match colors, sizes and materials – including Mammoth tooth ivory grips and Damascus steel slides, if you wish. The author liked the looks of this Raider model in Texas tan, OD green and graphite black.

## BUILD IT YOUR WAY

Although Republic Forge founder Benny Deal had been successful in a number of other industries, he grew up around guns and was taught how to use them by his father, a World War II veteran. That background nurtured his interest in launching a custom pistol business, but it couldn't be just any pistol.

"To me, the 1911 is the best pistol design there is," he says. "It was a natural fit." To build them right, he brought in head gunsmith Jeff Meister, who has over 30 years of experience in building 1911s, to oversee manufacture of the guns. Early on, they determined that each gun would be built one at a time,

from start to finish, by a single gunsmith.

They also decided that the guns would be completely American-built, down to the smallest components. "A lot of people say their guns are made in America, but many are just bolted together here," says Deal. "Our guns are made here in the U.S., on U.S. equipment. That was a challenge starting up, because there's so little infrastructure left in manufacturing here anymore. We had lots of opportunities to deviate from that and go down the more commonly tread path, but that just wasn't a good fit for us."

One factor in the firm's early success is a website that makes it easy to order a pistol

configured exactly the way you want it, much like automobile manufacturers allow you to custom-order a vehicle.

Once you've chosen a model, you can customize to your heart's content with a dizzying array of options. You can, for example, mix and match Cerakote colors on the frame, slide and controls, choosing from a palate that includes Barrett bronze, blue titanium, burnt bronze, graphite black, olive drab green, sniper gray, sniper green, SOCOM blue, Texas tan and tungsten gray. Similarly, you can choose from a wide range of colors in very aggressively textured VZ Operators II grips.

Want a Damascus steel slide and Mam-

*"OUT OF THE BOX, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE HAND FITTING ON THE PISTOL WAS EXPERTLY DONE."*



moth tooth ivory grips? You can get them. Of course, you'll pay appropriately for those materials. Polished blued steel remains an option for traditionalists.

You can also choose calibers other than .45 ACP, including 10 mm, 40 S&W, .38 Super and 9 mm. You can get the guns with or without a carry cut (bobtail), beveled magazine well and front cocking serrations. Other choices include a standard skeletonized or Texas star hammer, Bomar- or Novak-style rear sights, and standard or ambidextrous safety.

### **'THE WAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE'**

The gun I received for testing was the Raider, a government-size 1911 with a rail machined into the frame for attaching lights or lasers. Visually, it was love at first sight. The combination of Cerakote colors – Texas tan slide, OD green frame and graphite black controls – resulted in a package that pairs showroom good looks with a no-nonsense martial attitude.

Aggressively textured G10 VZ Operators II grips, in "dirty olive" color, added to that visual appeal, but they serve a more important purpose. These grips are highly unlikely to slip whether your hands are wet or covered with oil. The pistol's non-slip grip is further enhanced with 25 LPI checkering on both the frontstrap and backstrap. The slide has forward-angling front and rear cocking serrations. They were subdued, but cut sharply enough to get the job done without digging into the fingers.

Most surfaces of the frame and slide were nicely rounded, making the pistol about as snag-free as a full-size 1911 can be. One exception was the rear sight, which had a pronounced ledge. As it turns out, that's a good thing because it allows you to rack the slide on a belt or some other surface if your non-dominant hand is injured and unavailable for the task. Edges and corners of the sight were rounded off, and the rear surface was serrated to reduce glare. Trijicon green tritium night sight lamps were installed in a Heinie-type straight-eight configuration. I like this stacked, two-dot design for getting on target quickly.

An ambidextrous safety was mounted on the test pistol, and the hammer had a "Texas star" cutout design in place of the standard skeletonized hammer. The grip safety was of



A "Texas star" hammer is an option on all Republic Forge 1911s.



*"THE 1911 IS  
A PURE,  
COLD-  
STEEL-AND-  
HOT-LEAD  
SLICE OF  
AMERICA..."*



the speed bump variety, making it ideal for use with a variety of hand sizes.

As you would expect of a gun in this price range, the barrel is not just another barrel. Our test pistol came with a 5-inch Kart National Match barrel, which starts out oversized at all critical contact points. Properly fitted, this barrel will provide more accuracy than most shooters are capable of delivering.

The pistol used a GI-length guide rod, but a two-piece, full-length guide rod is available for those who desire one. These supposedly keep the recoil spring from binding or breaking, but I've honestly never seen that happen in a properly maintained 1911 with a GI-length rod. A more legitimate use would be to simply put a little more weight forward, if desired.

The trigger is a skeletonized, tri-cavity design. It broke cleanly at a consistent average pull weight of 4 pounds, 5 ounces on my Lyman trigger pull gauge. The pistols come with stainless steel Cobra magazines from Tripp Research, which has established a pretty solid reputation for building high-quality, reliable 1911 magazines.

Out of the box, it was obvious that the hand fitting on the pistol was expertly done. Shake this gun as much as you want, and you will hear nothing other than rounds in a magazine. The gun was tight, but not overly so. It cycled smoothly.

"We keep pretty tight tolerances – within a thousandth of an inch," says Meister. "Everything is hand-fit, the way it is supposed to be, and the way it was meant to be."

## ACCURATE AND RELIABLE

When shooting from the bench for accuracy testing, the pistol had a few failures to feed. I mentally chalked it up to a combination of bench technique and possibly tight new magazines. Things immediately improved when shooting offhand. The gun digested every load that I fed it with one exception. The gun would not consistently feed that one load. In each instance, it was the first round from the magazine that hung up upon chambering.

Apart from the pistol's obvious dislike for that single load, the gun ran flawlessly when shooting offhand. The weight of the full-size gun made it easy to control during rapid-fire drills. Empty cases extracted without issue and were ejected properly to the right and

Examination of the field-stripped pistol showed fit and finish to be first rate. Tolerances are held to one thousandth of an inch. The Raider came with a GI-type guide rod, but full-length guide rods are available for those who prefer a little more weight up front.



#### Custom 1911s to Order

When you visit the Republic Forge website, one of the first options you'll see is a list of eight different models. This allows you to select the frame, slide and barrel configuration you want. The choice of models includes the following:

**Republic** – A standard government-size 1911 with a 5-inch barrel.

**Long Slide** – A government 1911 with a 6-inch barrel.

**Valiant** – An officer frame mated to a commander slide and 4.25-inch barrel.

**Defiant** – A commander frame with officer slide and a 3.5-inch barrel.

**Stryker** – A commander-size gun with a rail and 4.25-inch barrel.

**General** – A true officer model with officer frame and slide with a 3.5-inch barrel.

**Patriot** – A commander frame and slide with a 4.25-inch barrel.

**Raider** – A government-size gun with a 5-inch barrel and rail.



When ordering your pistol, you can choose standard or ambidextrous safeties.



rear, indicating everything was correctly tuned in that department.

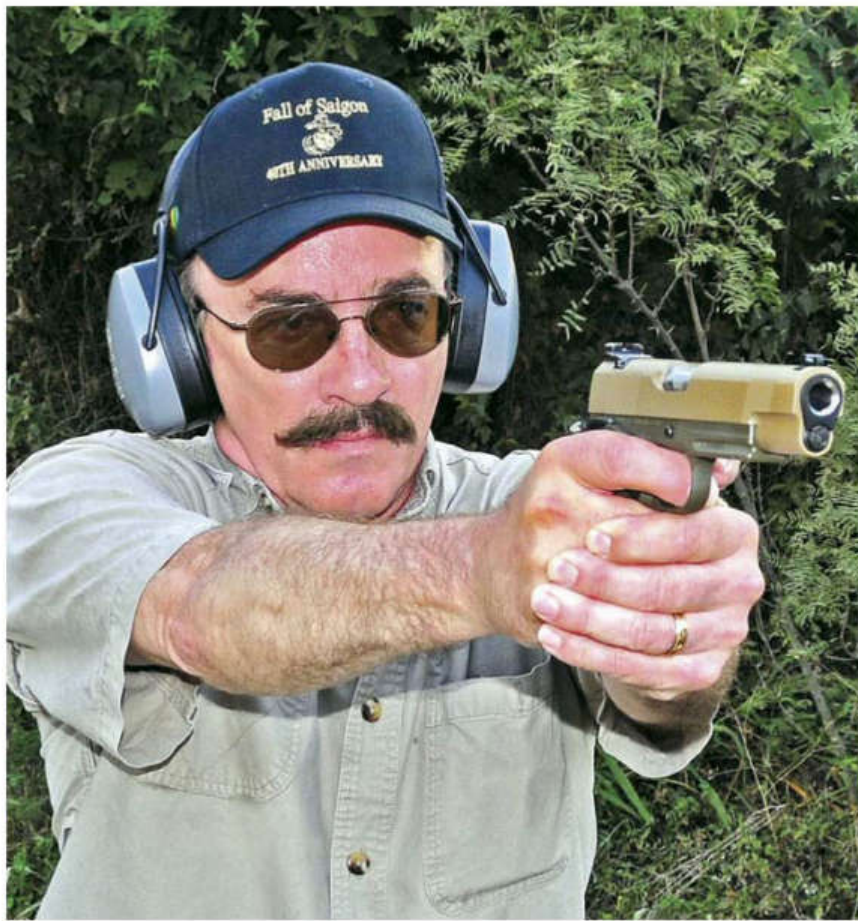
There were no real surprises in the velocities of ammo tested with the 5-inch barrel. The hottest load tested was Hornady's Critical Duty 220-grain +P load. Factory-stated muzzle velocity is 975 fps, but it clocked in at 1,031 fps out of the Raider's barrel. Federal's Tactical HST 230-grain ammo, a popular law enforcement and self-defense load, also beat factory-advertised speed with an average velocity of 905 fps. As you would expect, Hornady's lighter 185-grain American Gunner load showed some speed as well, stepping out at 976 fps. All the remaining loads came in a bit under 900 fps, slightly exceeding published velocities in most cases.

Thanks to having reached an age where I have to wear progressive corrective lenses, accuracy testing of pistols from the bench is definitely a bigger challenge than it used to be. As a result, I've modified my approach with 1911 pistols to shoot three eight-shot groups. I then measure the best five of eight shots, per group, to discount fliers and give a better idea of the real accuracy potential of each load.

Two- to three-inch groups are typically the best I can manage from the bench at 25 yards, and that proved to be the case with the Raider with a couple of notable exceptions. I was pleasantly surprised when Federal's 230-grain Gold Medal Match ammo produced a single best group of 1.58 inches and average groups measuring 2.38 inches. Another standout was Hornady's American Gunner 185-grain load, which produced the best average groups of 2.37 inches and a best group of 2.04 inches.

Five of seven tested loads turned in average groups measuring less than three inches. Anytime that happens, both the gun and I are having a good day. This was reinforced by the fact that best groups for all seven tested loads were smaller than three inches.

That will definitively address just about any situation for which you may need to employ a 1911. To verify this, of course, I felt compelled to send a rather large amount of ammo downrange while shooting offhand at three, seven, ten and 15 yards. At all distances, this resulted in the gleeful shredding of the vital zones of standard B27 silhouette



The author put the Republic Forge Raider 1911 through its paces and found it to be accurate, reliable and highly controllable.



This view shows the business end of the Kart National Match barrel as well as the generally rounded edges of the slide.





The Raider comes with a 5-inch Kart National Match barrel.

*"A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY  
THEIR GUNS ARE  
MADE IN AMERICA,  
BUT MANY ARE JUST  
BOLTED  
TOGETHER HERE..."*



Optional front cocking serrations are subdued but functional.



The trigger was a skeletonized, tri-cavity design that broke crisply at 4 lbs., 5 oz.



VZ Operators II grips and 25 LPI checkering on the frontstrap and backstrap ensure a positive grip under all conditions.

targets – all in the name of science, of course. Taking the one troublesome load out of the mix, the pistol ran like a champ and shot tight groups.

For those who have been put off from purchasing a custom 1911 due to long wait times, you may want to check out Republic Arms' web site. At present, says Benny Deal, turn-around times are about 12-13 weeks. That may not sound fast, but it certainly beats waiting half a year or longer, in some cases, for a truly customized 1911.

Based on my experience with the Republic Forge Raider, the wait is well worth it. **GW**



#### CONTACT

**Competitive Edge Dynamics**  
CEDhk.com

**Federal Ammunition**  
FederalPremium.com

**Hornady Ammunition**  
Hornady.com

**Nagel's Gun Shop**  
NagelsGuns.net

**Republic Forge**  
RepublicForge.com

**Winchester Ammunition**  
Winchester.com

## ALL AMERICAN SPECIFICATIONS

### Republic Forge Raider 1911

**Caliber:** .45 Auto

**Action:** Single action

**Barrel:** 5-inch Kart National Match 4150 steel

**Frame:** Cerakoted 4140 steel

**Slide:** Cerakoted 4340 steel

**Grips:** VZ Operators II G10

**Capacity:** 8+1

**Magazines:** Tripp Research Cobra

**Sights:** Straight-eight night sights

**Weight:** 38 oz.

**MSRP:** **\$2,945** as tested.

### REPUBLIC FORGE RAIDER 1911 .45 ACP

LOAD	AVG. MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	AVG. 25-YARD GROUP (INCHES)	BEST 25-YARD GROUP (INCHES)
Federal Gold Medal Match 230-gr. FMJ	885	2.38	1.58
Federal Tactical HST 230-gr. JHP	905	2.74	1.96
Federal Hydra Shok 230-gr. JHP	873	3.26	2.72
Hornady American Gunner 185-gr. XTP	976	2.37	2.04
Hornady Critical Duty 220-gr. +P FlexLock	1031	2.95	2.69
Winchester PDX1 230-gr. Bonded JHP	864	3.16	2.91
Winchester Train & Defend 230-gr. FMJ	844	2.85	2.54

Note: Velocities measured with Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 chronograph. All groups measured as best 5 of 8 shots.





**YOUR MISSION. OUR COMMITMENT.**







# 10 THE PERFECT 10

**REPUBLIC FORGE'S**  
CUSTOM-BUILT LONG SLIDE  
IS A POWERFUL PISTOL  
THAT'S GREAT FOR HUNTING,  
TARGET SHOOTING, OR  
DEFENSE AGAINST TWO AND  
FOUR-LEGGED PREDATORS.

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY BRAD FITZPATRICK

**R**ECENTLY, I JOINED A GROUP of outdoor writers at Castle Valley Outdoors in Utah for a day of long range shooting. Most of the weapons provided were the type of firearms you'd expect to see at such an event: Weatherby Mark Vs in .30-378, DPMS G2 .308s, and the like. All the guns wore premium Trijicon glass, and we were shooting Barnes new Precision Match ammunition. With targets ranging from 100 to almost 1,000 yards, you need rifles, optics and ammunition that are up to the challenge.

I didn't, however, expect to see a 1911 pistol mixed in with this group. It lay in the center of the table, and even with its six-inch barrel it was dwarfed by the big guns.

It was a Republic Forge Long Slide 10mm.

Pretty soon, we each had a handful of loaded magazines and I was

the first one to the line. All around the 125-yard range the bigger guns were roaring and spotters were announcing hits or diagnosing misses. I closed the action on the 10mm, held it aloft and looked over the sights.

The first round went downrange and dust sputtered just under the bobcat target. I held higher, pressed again, and rang steel. Four out of eight shots struck the target. Pretty soon even the hardcore long-range shooters were trying their hand with the Republic Forge, and some were so bold as to try for the 225-yard target. There were a number of hits.

I won't assert that the Republic Forge is a 225-yard gun, nor that you couldn't get similar results with other premium 10mm 1911s. What I can say unequivocally is that the Republic Forge Long Slide is one of the most accurate and reliable 1911s I've ever tested regardless of caliber.



A Republic Forge Long Slide with a stunning Damascus slide. Slides such as these may be pricey, but they are extremely durable.



The gun we shot belonged to Dale Pancake, Republic Forge's Executive Vice President of Marketing and a man with over 30 years of law enforcement experience. Although Dale's pistol had been fired between 2,000 and 3,000 times since he had it built, all the mechanicals were tight and smooth.

That pistol barely had a chance to rest over two days of furious shooting.

We fired it on the short range, pounding metal targets with regularity. Afterwards, we competed in a walking course that involved everything from breaking stationary clay targets with a .45 at a few feet to sending cross-canyon shots more than 500 yards with the .30-378. The Long Slide was the last gun that we fired, cracking a steel plate at 30 yards until the magazine ran dry.

The next day we shot the long-range course, and kept the Long Slide running as quickly as magazines could be filled. That accounted for something like an additional 800 rounds through the gun without a hiccup, a jam, or any other problem.

## TOP 10

Even though there are other handguns



This 1911 wears particularly stunning mammoth ivory grips. And yes, they come from real mammoth tusks, which are most commonly found in Siberia.

chambered for the 10mm Auto, this powerful round will always be associated with the 1911. When the 10mm was exploding on the scene in the 1980s, it was to be first chambered in the BrenTen semiauto. But problems appeared from the start, and only a handful of BrenTens got out the door. Colt stepped in and intervened by chambering

their Delta Elite in 10mm, and the cartridge was saved. That's a good thing, because the 10mm Auto is a semiauto cartridge that can accomplish a lot.

Originally, the 10mm was conceived as a law enforcement cartridge, but the recoil was deemed too much for widespread use and the cartridge was quickly replaced by the less-





The Long Slide 1911 is an ideal platform for the 10mm Auto. Accurate, reliable, and capable of delivering fast, powerful follow-up shots, the Long Slide is a great choice for hunting deer at close to moderate ranges.



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REINFORCED  
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- Prevents movement from the hammer and trigger pin during firing



Metal reinforced at critical point of the buffer tube housing and rear take down pin



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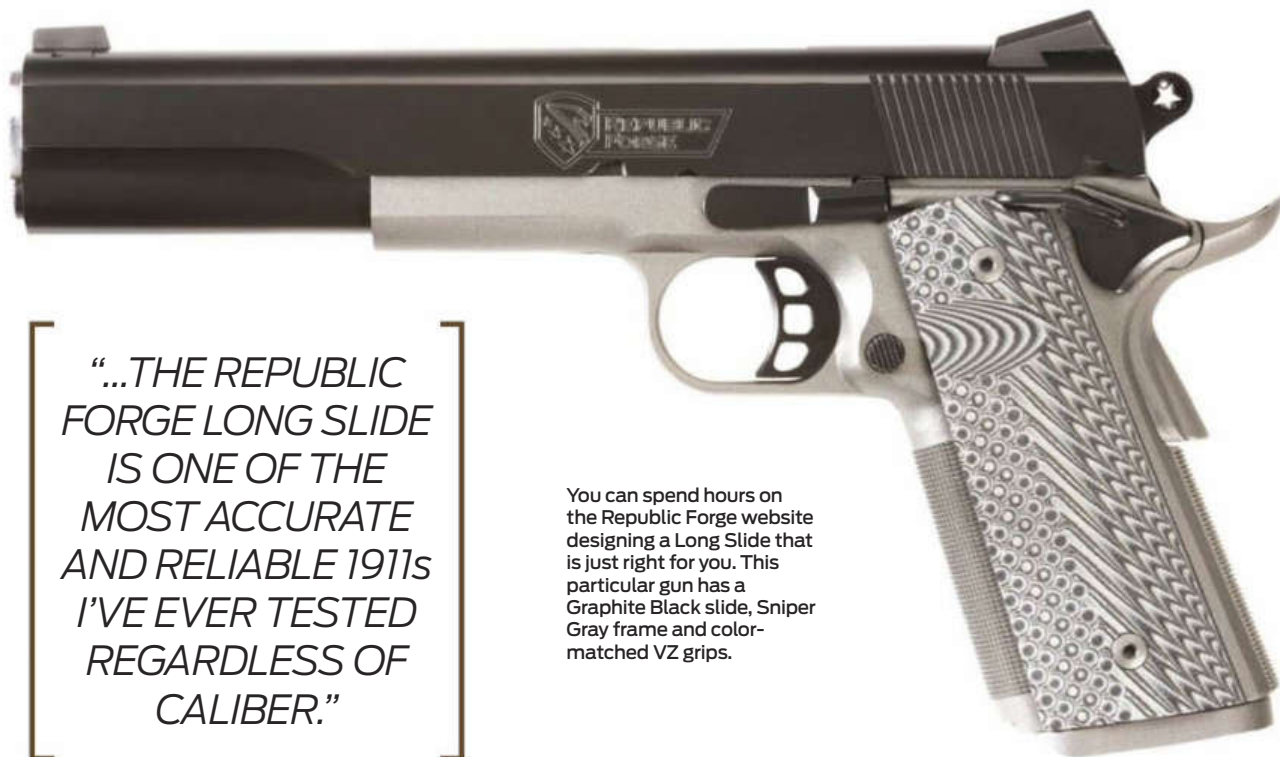
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“...THE REPUBLIC  
FORGE LONG SLIDE  
IS ONE OF THE  
MOST ACCURATE  
AND RELIABLE 1911s  
I’VE EVER TESTED  
REGARDLESS OF  
CALIBER.”

You can spend hours on the Republic Forge website designing a Long Slide that is just right for you. This particular gun has a Graphite Black slide, Sniper Gray frame and color-matched VZ grips.

powerful .40 S&W. But the 10mm generated lots of energy (just shy of .41 Magnum levels with full-power loads), had a flat trajectory, and offered higher magazine capacities than .45s. The cartridge hung on, but barely.

Today, the 10mm Auto is once again *en vogue*, and companies such as Federal are adding new loads. Originally, 10mm loads were backed off to .40 S&W levels to reduce recoil, but modern 10mm loads are hot enough to make this a legitimate dangerous game cartridge.

Since it's close to the .41 Magnum in power, many people now carry 10mms in bear country, preferring the dimensions of the semiauto over larger revolvers. And some people, Dale Pancake included, carry the 10mm for self-defense. Versatile as it is, the 10mm needs to be mated to the right pistol.

Republic Forge's Long Slide is just such a gun.

## A TRUE CUSTOM GUN

The Long Slide is available in .45 ACP and 10mm Auto only, but that's about the only limitation you have when selecting this gun (for more information about Republic Forge's model choices, see the feature on page 12).

The front strap has 25 LPI checkering, and the Long Slide comes with a six-inch

barrel that helps eke full velocities out of the hard-hitting 10mm. In addition, that extra barrel length adds some heft, which is greatly appreciated when firing full-power 10mm loads.

In fact, this roughly 40-ounce (depending on options) 10mm auto is very manageable to shoot, even with powerful loads. The extra inch of barrel makes it a bit nose-heavy, which slows muzzle rise and further reduces the impact of recoil. I won't say it's a pussy-cat, but it's in the realm of a standard .45 ACP five-inch gun, which can't be said of many of its 10mm brethren. In fact, the modest recoil belies just how powerful and flat shooting this round really is.

Dale has used his 10mm republic Forge Long Slide (the very same gun we put through a battery of tests) to hunt elk and stag, both of which he cleanly killed. The 10mm has earned a reputation as the best 1911 big game chambering, and with that I cannot disagree. Hog hunters have adopted the cartridge as standard battery for boars, and with good reason—when you need to put a pig down in a hurry but don't want to carry a long gun or a heavy revolver, the 10mm is just the ticket. It's hard to think of a big game handgun that's easier to transport than the Republic Forge Long Slide.

Since each Republic Forge is made one-

## Federal's New 10mm Load

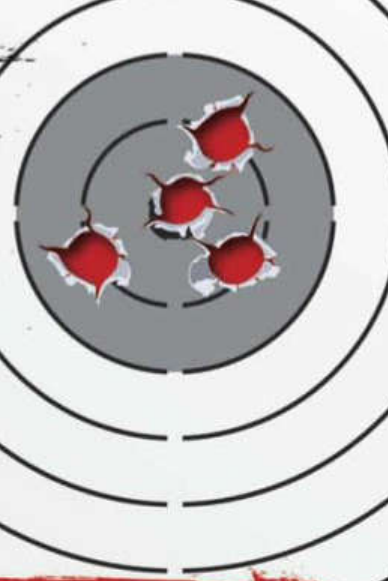
Because initial tests deemed the 10mm too stout for some law enforcement professionals, loads for this cartridge were often dropped down to .40 S&W levels. That's a shame, because the 10mm is capable of so much more.

Federal recently introduced a new 10mm Auto Trophy Bonded cartridge to their Vital-Shok line, and this particular 10mm cartridge is loaded the way the cartridge was initially intended. Federal claims that the new 180-grain load achieves velocities of 1,275 feet per second, 200 fps faster than average 10mm loads. That equates to an impressive 650 foot-pounds of energy.

Additionally, these figures were obtained with a five-inch barrel, so the Long Slide's six-inch pipe should generate velocities and energies that are higher than factory claims.

The new Vital-Shok offerings are loaded with Trophy Bonded bullets, which have a long reputation as being some of the very best hunting bullets on the market. Federal's hot new 10mm load has a flat trajectory, high energy levels and utilizes one of the best hunting bullets available, making this load a natural choice for anyone who hunts with a 10mm Auto.

**A \*3" accuracy  
guarantee at 50 yards?  
Right out of the box?  
*You're Kidding!***



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Mammoth tooth (shown here on a five-inch gun, but also available on the Long Slide version) is yet another way to customize your Republic Forge pistol.

at-a-time to owner specifications, there's no standard finish, grip, or barrel length. But all Republic Forge guns share the same DNA, and all are made with American parts on American machines. The Long Slide is big and bad, and in 10mm it's perfectly suited to a variety of applications.

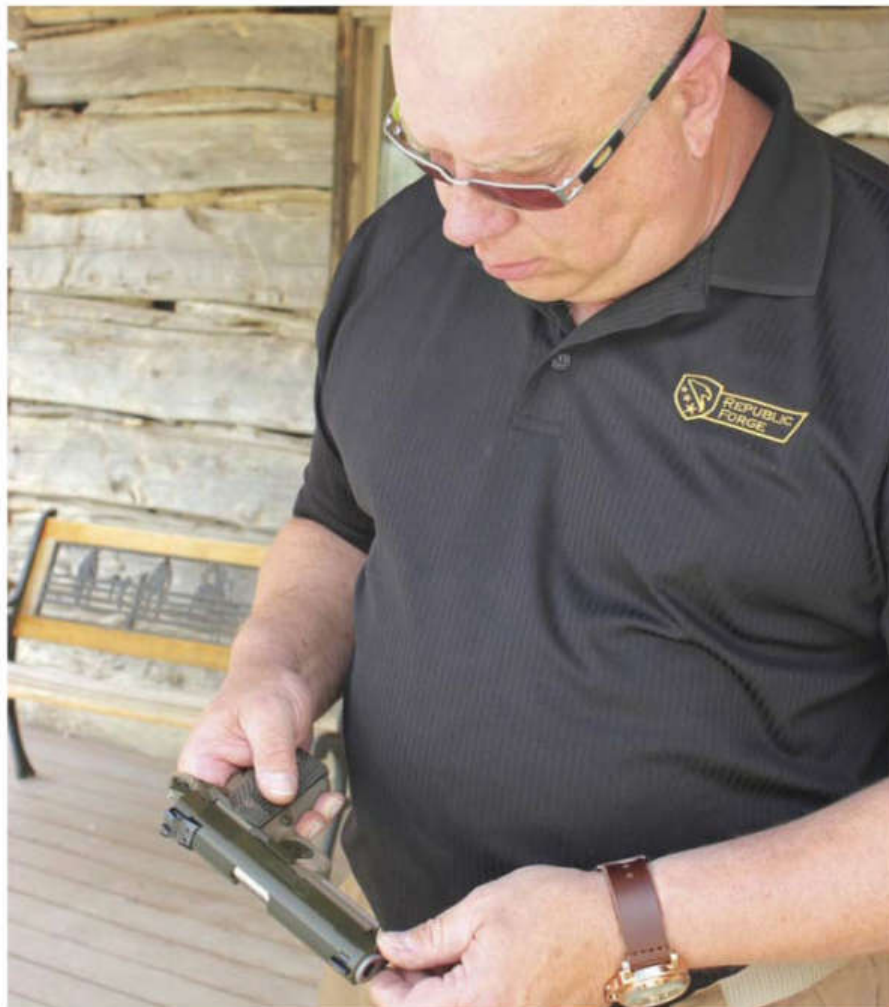
Prices on the Long Slide guns start at \$3,395 and go up from there. That's a lot of money, but you're not going to find a 1911 that is custom made to your specifications that shoots like this for any less. There's a pride of ownership that comes with having a gun like this, especially when you designed the gun exactly as you wanted it. These guns are accurate and reliable, and best of all, they're made entirely in the United States

*"THERE'S A PRIDE  
OF OWNERSHIP  
THAT COMES WITH  
HAVING A GUN  
LIKE THIS..."*

with American machines and materials by American gunsmiths.

If you need a powerful gun—either for hunting or defense against two and four-legged predators—the Republic Forge Long Slide in 10mm is potent medicine. **GW**





Dale Pancake, Executive Vice President of Marketing at Republic Forge and a 30-plus year veteran of law enforcement, examines one of his company's new 1911s.



Normally, hitting a target at 125 yards while shooting a pistol off-hand is quite a challenge, but with a precision gun like the Long Slide it's quite possible. Here, Eddie Stevenson takes careful aim at the bobcat target.

## The First and Still the Best!

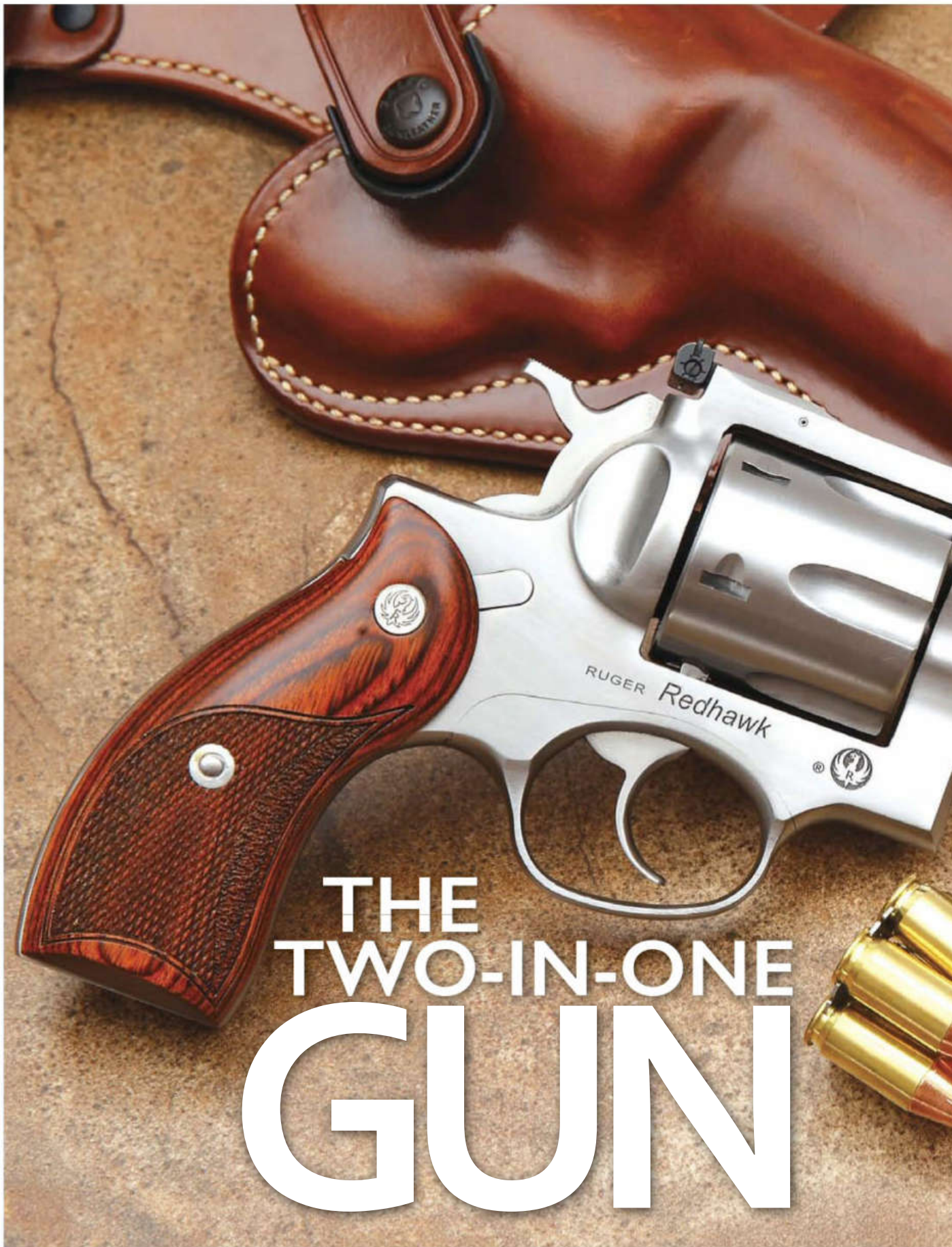
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# THE TWO-IN-ONE GUN





## RUGER OFFERS A NEW AND VERSATILE MULTI-CALIBER REDHAWK

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARRETT LUCAS

**T**HE VERY FIRST HANDGUN that I could call my own was a ruger single-six revolver. It was made in 1982 when I was 12 years old. It was a gift from a family member, and I felt like I was ten feet tall. It even came with a leather Bianchi field holster, and I still have both after all these years. There are some things you don't let go of no matter how hard times get.

I was a "shiny object" kid. I always liked the latest and greatest technology, and was always attracted to things that were different. What I loved about that Single-Six was that it came with two cylinders, one chambered for .22 LR and the other for .22 WMR. Growing up in rural West Virginia, I'd never heard of such luxury and I was instantly in love.

I'd have fun practicing when I could scratch up the money to buy some .22 LR rounds, but I always had one box of .22 WMRs stored away just in case I needed to do serious work, like defending the "ranch." It was the best feeling in the world.

The new .45 Auto/.45 Long Colt Ruger Redhawk is a great example of taking something "old" and make it new again.

## THEN AND NOW

Fast-forward three decades. After a few years of offering their Hell-for-stout Redhawk revolvers with a 4.2-inch barrel in .44 Magnum and .45 Long Colt, Ruger chose to offer an additional 4.2-inch barrel version that would be set up to shoot .45 Long Colts, but that could also fire .45 Auto.

In the words of Yogi Berra, "It was Déjà vu all over again!"

The reason for the sensory throwback was that Ruger was again offering the ability to fire multiple calibers of ammunition in a big-bore revolver, but doing it with one cylinder instead of two. Better still, this ability now came in a double-action revolver, great for quick follow-up shots.

Although the concept wasn't new to the industry, this was a Ruger, and it touched close to home.

Enter the .45 Auto/.45 LC Redhawk.

This version of the Redhawk tips the scales at 44 ounces (2.75 pounds), so there's no doubting you're holding a firearm that can de-

liver big performance. The Redhawks have been widely appreciated over the years for the strength of their frames, and you notice the quality as soon as you pick one up.

Despite the usual beefy feel, there is definitely something different about the new Redhawk that's immediately apparent, and that's the grip frame. Traditionally, the Redhawk revolver incorporates a square grip frame; however, the new Redhawk comes with a rounded version to aid with carry, concealability, and for different handling characteristics.

## SOME PARTICULARS

These different handling characteristics and the easier concealability are due, in part, to the round grip frame, but also stems from the use of different grip materials. Instead of hand-filling rubber grips, the new Redhawk uses a more diminutive wood grip. Though it's easier to conceal and wrap your hands around, there's a trade-off when actually shooting – especially heavy .45 LC +P loads.

As with any other Redhawk I've used, the

Double Action trigger pull is a little heavy, though quite smooth. The sample model I was provided had a DA trigger pull of 12.5 pounds, while the Single Action pull was 6.25 pounds. Personally, I would have liked a lighter SA trigger pull for precise shots, but because of the Redhawk's main/trigger spring's design, a lighter pull can translate into unreliable primer ignitions.

The overall length is 9.5 inches with the 4.2-inch barrel. The sights are pretty standard, though I actually like them quite a bit. The rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation, and has a white outline that contrasts nicely with the front ram sight with a red insert.

As mentioned, the new Redhawk can fire both .45 Auto and .45 LC rounds, so the cylinder has been configured to accept full moon clips, which can be used with either .45 ACP or .45 Super. Three moon clips are included with the Redhawk when purchased. If you're at all like me, you'll want to stock up on more.

Besides being able to fire .45 Long Colt rounds, the new Redhawk is able to fire .45 ACP and .45 Super with the use of full-moon clips.







As seen in the picture, the factory wood grips are fairly thin and, while making the Redhawk more concealable, result in a trade-off of more felt recoil than Hogue rubber Mono-grips offered on similar models.



#### Galco Gunleather's Great Alaska

Another item that came in very handy during my outings in the woods was Galco Gunleather's Great Alaska Shoulder System. There aren't many holsters on the market yet for the 4.2-inch Redhawk, but there doesn't need to be. This holster absolutely nails the best way to carry the new Redhawk in the field for hunting or protection.

It has a single shoulder strap that can be worn on either shoulder, according to your preference, and it has a nylon strap that comes around from the back and attaches to the holster in the chest area. This places the Redhawk in a perfect cross-draw position at a height that won't interfere with anything on your waist, such as an equipment belt, or the belt from a backpack that has hip pads.

The Shoulder System is easily adjusted at several points for a perfect fit over regular clothes or a heavy winter coat. Also, there's an optional ammunition carrier that can be attached to the leather support strap, allowing you to keep some ammo on hand should you have to fire off a couple of rounds during the day.

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***"I LIKE THE VERSATILITY OF BEING ABLE TO FIRE .45 AUTO ROUNDS THROUGH THE REDHAWK."***

### **REDHAWK ON THE LINE!**

No matter how good something may look, performance is always more important, so a trip to the range was overdue. We spoke with the folks at Buffalo Bore ammunition about the type of revolver we were reviewing, and they were more than gracious in providing a variety of loads in .45 ACP, .45 Super and .45 Long Colt. Buffalo Bore is known for both its ammunition quality and for its high performance loads that push quality firearms to the edge of the envelope.

The first thing I did was run a box of generic 230-grain .45 ACP rounds through the Redhawk to get used to the feel of the gun and become familiar with the trigger before I started zipping off the high-end stuff from Buffalo Bore. For me, shooting the standard pressure 230-grain ball ammo was like shooting .22 loads out of a steel .38 Special. I could have done it all day and night.

After the warm-up session, I settled down to a bench rest to start testing for the velocity and accuracy of the various Buffalo Bore rounds at 25 yards. I had the chronograph 10 feet from the muzzle to preclude any errors caused by muzzle blast.

I shot at least ten rounds of each load. For the sake of brevity, I made a list of the various Buffalo Bore loads shot through the new Redhawk's 4.2-inch barrel during two range sessions, and have included the average velocity for each round:

I noticed that several of the rounds I tested ran 50-75 fps slower than their listings on the website. While looking at these listings, I found that a 5.5-inch barrel was the most common barrel used for testing. So, my assumption is that any ammunition type that had only one velocity listing was from a 5.5-inch barrel.

This would explain the slightly slower velocities I was getting with the Redhawk's 4.2-inch barrel. To further back up my assumption, one load – the .45 LC 260-grain



Galco Gunleather's Great Alaskan Shoulder System is a definite must-have item for carry in the field.



The Ruger Redhawk incorporates standard sights, with the rear sights being adjustable and having a white outline to contrast against the red insert on the front ramp sight.

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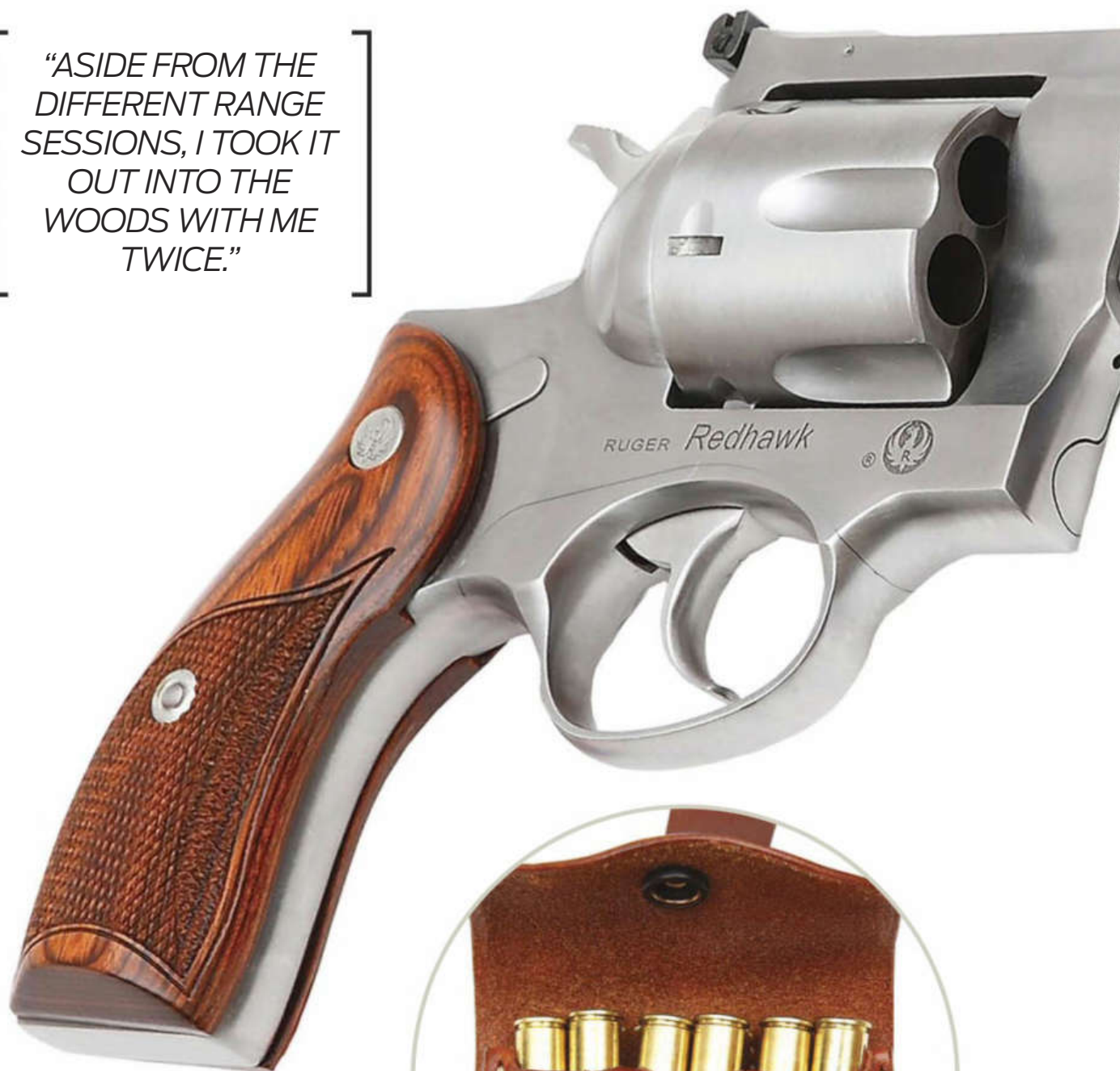
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“ASIDE FROM THE  
DIFFERENT RANGE  
SESSIONS, I TOOK IT  
OUT INTO THE  
WOODS WITH ME  
TWICE.”



Though the grip frame is rounded, the .45 Auto/.45 LC Redhawk still sports the same beefy frame, which can safely handle the hottest loads put out by reputable manufacturers.



Galco Gunleather offers an optional ammunition carrier that can be attached to the leather strap on the Great Alaskan Shoulder System.





The two best groups of the day came from Buffalo Bore's .45 LC 225-grain Low-Flash, Anti-Personnel wadcutter. The high-contrast Shot-Spotter target from Thompson Target made it easy for the author to get good placement with the open sights, though luck probably had about 70% input.

+P Deer Grenade – actually had a listing from a 4.2-inch barrel Redhawk on Buffalo Bore's site. Their average velocity was 1449 fps while my test average for that load was 1438 fps – almost identical to their listing.

## GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Let's just deal with the elephant in the room. How is the recoil with the new, rounded grip frame? To be honest, you're going to feel the heavy +P loads. Let's face it. It's a smaller area to distribute recoil, and there are thin wood panels instead of a shock-absorbing rubber material. Standard pressure .45 LC rounds had light recoil, while the +P .45 LC rounds like the 225-grain Lead-

Free and the 260-grain JHP gave a more pronounced jolt. The 325-grain L.B.T.-L.F.N. was bearable for a few rounds, but by round six, you wanted to take a break.

Shooting both the .45 ACP and the .45 Super ammunition was very easy, and in most cases it was downright pleasant. I like the versatility of being able to fire .45 Auto rounds through the Redhawk. That makes it a very nice handgun to have around, and it can certainly help cut down costs and fatigue during those times when you just want to get out and shoot all day. The Redhawk can also be a viable home-defense weapon because of the softer-shooting .45 Auto rounds.

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The perfect combination for a walk (or hunt) in the woods during autumn. The new Ruger Redhawk, along with Buffalo Bore's high performance ammunition and the Behring Made Red Stag Sharptail will help ensure a safe and productive day.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Material:** Stainless Steel  
**Finish:** Satin Stainless  
**Front Sight:** Ramp, Red Insert  
**Rear Sight:** Adjustable, White Outline  
**Barrel Length:** 4.2 inches  
**Overall Length:** 9.5 inches  
**Weight:** 44 ounces  
**Grips:** Lasered Hardwood  
**Twist:** 1:16  
**Capacity:** 6

**MSRP: \$1,029**

## RUGER REDHAWK MULTI-CALIBER

### BUFFALO BORE LOAD

BUFFALO BORE LOAD	AVERAGE VELOCITY
.45 LC 260-grain +P JHP	1392 fps
.45 LC 260-grain +P HP Deer Grenade	1438 fps
.45 LC 225-grain Low-Flash Wadcutters	1046 fps
.45 LC 225-grain +P Lead-Free Barnes XPB	1450 fps
.45 LC 325-grain +P L.B.T.-L.F.N.	1301 fps
.45 Super 230-grain JHP	1009 fps
.45 ACP 230-grain +P H.C. F.N.	847 fps
.45 ACP 160-grain +P Lead-Free Tac-XP	1067 fps



## ACCURACY

However, despite the versatility, it was the .45 Long Colt rounds that turned in the best accuracy overall.

Out of the .45 LC loads that were fired, the most accurate turned out to be the 260-grain +P JHP and the 225-grain Low-Flash, Anti-Personnel wadcutters.

From a rest at 25 yards, two groups of shots with the 260-grain +P JHP rounds produced a 2.5-inch spread. At that distance, any real variance in the equation would be me, as my eyes aren't exactly up to par. I imagine a machine rest would turn out even better results. The groups that were a real surprise that day, despite the fact that I'd gotten an impressive group on another day, was by the 225-grain Low-Flash wadcutters.

I had only six rounds of this load left, and it was near the end of my session.

I shot a three-round group, and it was a 1.5-inch spread. Since these had been the most accurate rounds in all sessions, I figured I'd adjust the windage and try to get my last three rounds in the bullseye.

I guess during that interval, something changed with my hold as I went a bit high with the last group, but the three holes ended up touching each other and came in right at half an inch. This is a testimony to the consistency of each loading for the rounds made by Buffalo Bore, and it also illustrates the potential of the Redhawk with the right load.

## FINAL OBSERVATIONS

There was some of that same excitement from when I was a kid playing with the Single-Six as I tested the Redhawk. Aside from the different range sessions, I took it out into the woods with me twice. Since my area is known for poisonous snakes, I stuffed the first two chambers with CCI .45 LC Shotshells each time I went out.

While at the range, I also practiced with these loads at ten feet on a Thompson Target HALO reactive target that helps the shot holes show up better in the image. The ten feet pattern is more than dense enough to deal with a pest or a snake.

Ruger's been on a roll lately with the innovative products they've brought to the market this past three to four years. The new



For those that spend time in snake country, the CCI Shotshell is a requisite load to have with you in the field. This Thompson Target HALO reactive target shows the pattern of the CCI .45 LC Shotshell at ten feet.

.45 Auto/.45 Long Colt Redhawk is a great example of what they're doing, especially when they can take something "old" and make it new again.

Whether you're a hunter that wants a high-performance handgun, a prepper that likes the multiple caliber options, or just someone who appreciates big-bore defense with a more comfortable and concealable grip frame, you should check out this new offering from Ruger. You might just find your new best friend! **GW**

## CONTACT

**Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.**  
(336) 949-5200  
Ruger.com

**Buffalo Bore Ammunition**  
BuffaloBore.com

**CCI Ammunition**  
(800) 379-1732  
CCI-Ammunition.com

**Thompson Target**  
(330) 699-8000  
ThompsonTarget.com

**Galco International**  
(800) 874-2526  
GalcoGunLeather.com



# KNIFEMAKING

## STARTS WITH... STEEL

### 154CM 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.05, Mn .50, Si .30, Cr 14.00, Mo 4.00.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	AF218 \$26.95	AU218 \$32.95	AG618 \$38.95
1/8"	2"	AF228 \$34.95	AU228 \$42.95	AG628 \$50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	AF318 \$28.95	AU318 \$34.95	AG718 \$40.95
5/32"	2"	AF328 \$39.95	AU328 \$47.95	AG728 \$55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	AF418 \$35.95	AU418 \$41.95	AG818 \$47.95
3/16"	2"	AF428 \$45.95	AU428 \$53.95	AG828 \$61.95

WATER JET  
CUT EDGES

### CPMS 35VN 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.40, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 14.00, Mo 2.00, V 3.00, Nb .50.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1. "	1 1/2"	HF218 \$33.95	HU218 \$39.95	HG218 \$45.95
1. "	2"	HF228 \$39.95	HU228 \$47.95	HG228 \$56.95
5. 2"	1 1/2"	HF318 \$43.95	HU318 \$49.95	HG318 \$55.95
3/32"	2"	HF418 \$58.95	HU418 \$66.95	HG418 \$74.95
3. 6"	1 1/2"	HF508 \$51.95	HU508 \$57.95	HG508 \$63.95
6"	2"	HF518 \$69.95	HU518 \$77.95	HG518 \$85.95

### CPM154 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.05, Mn .50, Si .30, Cr 14.00, Mo 4.00.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	PF218 \$30.95	DU218 \$36.95	PG718 \$42.95
1/8"	2"	PF228 \$39.95	DU228 \$47.95	PG728 \$55.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	PF318 \$39.95	DU318 \$45.95	PG818 \$51.95
5/32"	2"	PF328 \$52.95	DU328 \$60.95	PG828 \$68.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	PF418 \$46.95	DU418 \$52.95	PG918 \$58.95
3/16"	2"	PF428 \$60.95	DU428 \$68.95	PG928 \$76.95

AVAILABLE IN  
36" LENGTHS

### CPM 4V 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.35, Mn .40, Si .80, Cr 15.0, V 3.85, Mo 2.95.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	OF218 \$30.95	OU218 \$36.95	OG218 \$42.95
1. "	2"	OF228 \$39.95	OU228 \$47.95	OG228 \$55.95
1/8"	4"	OF248 \$75.95	OU248 \$91.95	OG248 \$107.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	OF318 \$39.95	OU318 \$45.95	OG318 \$51.95
5/32"	2"	OF328 \$52.95	OU328 \$60.95	OG328 \$68.95
1 1/2"	4"	OF348 \$99.95	OU348 \$125.95	OG348 \$131.95

### 440C 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.00, Mn .45, Si .30, Cr 17.00, Mo .50.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	CF518 \$19.95	CU518 \$25.95	CG718 \$31.95
1/8"	2"	CF558 \$24.95	CU558 \$32.95	CG758 \$40.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	CF618 \$22.95	CU618 \$28.95	CG818 \$34.95
5/32"	2"	CF658 \$30.95	CU658 \$38.95	CG858 \$46.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	CF718 \$26.95	CU718 \$32.95	CG918 \$38.95
3/16"	2"	CF758 \$34.95	CU758 \$42.95	CG958 \$48.95
1/4"	2"	CF958 \$44.95	CU958 \$52.95	CG1058 \$60.95

HOT ROLLED  
MILL FINISH

### 1 1/2 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, V .95, Mo .90.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1 1/2"	1 1/2"	YF318 \$18.95	XD318 \$22.95	XD0815 \$30.95
1 1/2"	2"	YF328 \$24.95	XD328 \$29.95	XD0820 \$39.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	YF518 \$21.95	XD518 \$25.95	XD1015 \$29.95
5 1/2"	2"	YF528 \$29.95	XD528 \$34.95	XD1020 \$41.95
3 6"	1 1/2"	YF718 \$26.95	XD718 \$30.95	XD1215 \$38.95
3/16"	2"	YF728 \$34.95	XD728 \$39.95	XD1220 \$50.95
1 1/2"	2"	YF818 \$41.95	XD818 \$46.95	XD1620 \$57.95

BLANCHARD  
GROUND

### CPMS 30V 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.45, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 14.00, Mo 2.00, V 4.00.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	LF218 \$32.95	LU218 \$38.95	LG718 \$44.95
1/8"	2"	LF228 \$42.95	LU228 \$50.95	LG728 \$58.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	LF318 \$40.95	LU318 \$46.95	LG818 \$52.95
5/32"	2"	LF328 \$56.95	LU328 \$64.95	LG828 \$72.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	LF418 \$51.95	LU418 \$57.95	LG918 \$63.95
3/16"	2"	LF428 \$65.95	LU428 \$73.95	LG928 \$81.95

PRECISION  
GROUND

### CPM REX M4 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.42, Mn .30, Si .06, Cr 4.00, Mo 5.25, V 4.00, W 5.5.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
3/16"	1 1/2"	JF418 \$40.95		
3/16"	2"	JF428 \$52.95		
3/16"	4"	JF448 \$99.95		
1. "	1 1/2"	JF518 \$52.95		
1/4"	2"	JF528 \$70.95		
1 1/2"	4"	JF548 \$134.95		

### CPM D2 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, Mo .90, V .95.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF218 \$26.95	ZU218 \$32.95	ZG218 \$38.95
1/8"	2"	ZF228 \$34.95	ZU228 \$42.95	ZG228 \$50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF318 \$28.95	ZU318 \$34.95	ZG318 \$40.95
5/32"	2"	ZF328 \$39.95	ZU328 \$47.95	ZG328 \$55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF418 \$35.95	ZU418 \$41.95	ZG418 \$47.95
3/16"	2"	ZF428 \$45.95	ZU428 \$53.95	ZG428 \$61.95

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### CPM 3V 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C .80, Cr 7.5, Mo 1.30, V 2.75.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
3/16"	1 1/2"	VF718 \$43.95	VU718 \$49.95	VG718 \$55.95
3/16"	2"	VF728 \$57.95	VU728 \$63.95	VG728 \$69.95
3/16"	4"	VF748 \$113.95	VU748 \$129.95	VG748 \$145.95
1. "	1 1/2"	VF918 \$55.95	VU918 \$61.95	VG918 \$67.95
1. "	2"	VF928 \$73.95	VU928 \$81.95	VG928 \$89.95
"	4"	VF948 \$143.95	VU948 \$159.95	VG948 \$175.95

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### NC Tool Knifemaker Forge

Equipped with insulated doors on both ends for easy entry and removal of Damascus billets. Comes fitted for propane, but can be configured for natural gas. Regulator and Hose included, operates off a standard 20lb propane tank, the same type used for barbecue grills. Reaches 2350°. The heat Chamber is 4" x 4 1/2" x 13 1/2". Exhaust port on one door is 3" x 2". Ship weight is 48 lbs. **Actual shipping charges.**

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
NC111	Knifemaker Forge	559.95



Equipped with a simple to master SENTRY 12 key electronic temperature controller. Controls heating and cooling with accuracy and repeatability. Store up to 4 programs in memory, one for each type of steel you regularly treat. Maximum temp is 2300°. KF524 is 240 volt, 7.5 amp, 1800 watts, 5.5" wide and 4.5" high. All dimensions are inside chamber measurements. **Actual shipping charges apply. Allow 14 days for shipping.**

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
KF524	24" Paragon Oven	1340.00



Blaze belts are the next generation of Ceramic belts for metal removal. Lasts 200% longer on hard-to-grind materials and alloys. Cuts faster and cooler, with less pressure, than any other ceramic belt.

CAT.#	SIZE	GRIT	PRICE
NA72036	2" x 72"	36	12.50
NA72050	2" x 72"	50	12.50
NA72060	2" x 72"	60	9.95
NA72080	2" x 72"	80	9.95
NA72120	2" x 72"	120	9.25
NA72220	2" x 72"	220	8.50



### NC Tool Anvil



Quality alloyed castings, our 70 lb. anvil is precision milled and heat treated. A 3 1/2" x 11" face and 4" x 8" horn. Perfect for forging Damascus. **Actual shipping charges.**

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
NC207	Forging Anvil	274.95

### Hammer and Tongs



Forging hammers are perfectly balanced. One end round, crowned face, other is flat and beveled to reduce the possibility of chipping.

Heat treating tongs are manufactured from special low carbon steel for lasting strength. Will not become brittle when quenched in water.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
NC770	1 1/2 lb. Hammer	49.95
NC772	2 lb. Hammer	49.95
KF901	15" Tongs	39.95



### Heat Treating Foil

Simple to use; place blade or other part in the Tool Steep Wrap; fold over and crimp edges forming an air tight package; place in oven and heat treat according to metal directions. Place a small chip of wood inside the foil packet to help burn up oxygen inside the wrap. Use only once. Cuts easily with scissors. Size .002" x 12" x 25'.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
KF321	1900° 321 Foil	47.95
KF309	2200° 309 Foil	64.95

### ChevronTexaco 70 Quench Oil



Premium quenching oil designed to provide controlled cooling of steel. When quenching is started, Chevron Quenching Oil 70 provides a high initial cooling rate inducing maximum hardness, yet once the critical transformation temperature is passed, the ideal fluid cooling rate decreases to eliminate the possibility of stresses and metal distortion. This highly stable oil resists the oxidizing effects of quenching and is less sensitive to the effects of agitation. It is highly heat resistant.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
BS101	1 Gallon	49.95
BS105	5 Gallon	149.95



J-Flex belts are very flexible and made of aluminum oxide. Great on contoured workpieces. Use on your stainless and high alloy steels as well as on all ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The semi-open coated material is resin bonded with a special gold colored top coating to aid in cooling and to resist loading.

CAT.#	SIZE	GRIT	PRICE
KS080	2" x 72"	80	5.95
KS100	2" x 72"	120	5.95
KS101	2" x 72"	180	5.95
KS102	2" x 72"	220	5.95
KS103	2" x 72"	320	5.95
KS104	2" x 72"	400	5.95



Scotch Brite belts are ideal for cleaning, deburring, blending tool marks and removing surface imperfections quickly and easily. Create a very nice satin finished scratch pattern on your blades and other metal parts with these belts.

Very Fine = 400-600 grit  
Super Fine = 800-1,000 grit.

CAT.#	SIZE	GRIT	PRICE
IB72VF	2" x 72"	Very Fine	24.95
IB72SF	2" x 72"	Super Fine	27.95



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# Going Long M&P10

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY MIKE DICKERSON

---

IF YOU THINK A LIGHTWEIGHT **AR-10** CAN'T BE  
**ACCURATE AT LONG DISTANCE**, THINK AGAIN.

This rifle, used in the long-range shooting school, is a law enforcement version of the M&P10. It differs from a civilian M&P10 only by virtue of an added Magpul handguard and iron sights.



**T**HERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT. If you want to make a lightweight, affordable AR-10 rifle, you're going to have to make some tradeoffs.

You'll obviously need to start with an AR-10-scaled receiver and bolt since the rifle will be chambered in .308 Win., as Eugene Stoner intended sixty years ago with his original AR-10 design. There's only so much weight that can be shaved there, so we'll go with an 18-inch pencil-profile barrel. Since we're trying to keep costs down to appeal to a wide range of buyers, we'll probably have to use a MIL-SPEC trigger, or something close to it. It'll probably have some creep and a heavy pull weight, but we know a lot of buyers plan to swap out triggers anyway.

Sounds like a recipe for mediocrity, right?

In the case of Smith & Wesson's M&P10 rifle, that

assumption is dead wrong.

I found out just how wrong when I attended a two-day, long-range shooting school in Utah and Wyoming sponsored by Smith & Wesson and NRA Outdoors. A group of mostly seasoned gun writers were assembled to see just how well Smith & Wesson's M&P10 performed at distance and, presumably, to see if we could maybe learn a few things we didn't already know about long range shooting.

After two long days of fast-paced shooting at distances ranging from 400 to 1,000 yards, interspersed with some first-rate instruction, it's safe to say that most of us left knowing more than we did when we arrived. But more than that, each of us was somewhat astonished at the performance of the M&P10, which Smith & Wesson admits was not designed to be a long-range shooter.

Oh, but it is, my friends.





Weighing only 7.71 lbs. with an 18-inch pencil barrel, the M&P10 was not designed to be a long-range rifle, but it surprised shooters at the long-range school by producing consistent hits at ranges up to 1,000 yards.

## SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

Before I reveal just how well the M&P10 shot at distance, you should know that all of the rifles we used were standard law enforcement models. Apart from being equipped with a Magpul handguard and folding Troy sights, this model is exactly the same as a stock civilian M&P10. The only modification that was made to the guns for the school sessions was the addition of a Magpul PRS (Precision Rifle/Sniper) buttstock in place of the usual and popular six-position CAR or M4-style stock.

The PRS stock is designed for the longer charging handle throw of AR-10 platforms, and is adjustable for both comb height and length of pull. Compared to an A2 stock, the PRS gives you .75 inches of comb height adjustment, and you can shorten length of pull by .25 inches, or lengthen it by .75 inches.

The other key addition was a Huskemaw Blue Diamond 3-12X42mm scope. I had never previously used one of these scopes, and it was, if you'll pardon the expression, an eye-opener. This scope features a custom-cut BDC (bullet drop compensator) turret,

which is calibrated in yards rather than the standard MOA indicator marks.

Part of that process involves collecting and using actual drop data from shooting the rifle in the field in a controlled environment, taking into consideration factors such as elevation, temperature, true ballistic coefficient and muzzle velocity. It's all a bit much to go into here, but the bottom line is that the turret is laser-engraved to match the actual trajectory of an individual load from an individual rifle – and trust me, that makes a huge difference in the field.

This brings us to ammunition, the third important factor in this long-range shooting equation. For the school, we shot one load exclusively since it was the basis for data used to make the custom-cut turrets on the scopes. That load was Hornady's 168-grain A-MAX .308 Win. load. We shot the red-boxed law enforcement ammo, but it is, for all practical purposes, the same as the commercially available brown-box match round. Factory-stated velocity out of a 24-inch test barrel is 2,700 fps. We were obviously pushing it slower than that out of an 18-inch

tube, but the bullet still had plenty of sizzle to hit targets at ranges that were more than little surprising.

## A HEAVYWEIGHT LIGHTWEIGHT

While the M&P10 superficially looks like another upsized AR-15 rifle, a few things stand out about this gun. One is the rifle's weight – or rather, its lack of weight.

The stock M&P10 weighs 7.71 pounds, which may not sound all that light, but it's a featherweight compared to many AR-10 rifles. Most are at least one or two pounds heavier. That weight puts it squarely in the running as an everyday hunting rifle, but also gives it great utility for tactical applications. Some have opined that this results in a substantial amount of recoil. It's an observation that I find a substantial amount of humor in. I honestly never noticed the recoil in two days of high-volume shooting, and I can only surmise that anyone who finds the recoil objectionable hasn't spent much time shooting anything more potent than a .223.

Southpaws will be happy with this rifle



The M&P bolt and carrier are .223-sized at the rear, but beefed up to handle .308 Win. loads at the front.



The stock M&P10 comes with a Magpul pistol grip.



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For the long-range shooting school, M&P10s were equipped with Huskemaw Blue Diamond scopes with custom-cut BDC (bullet drop compensator) turrets matched to Hornady's 168-gr. A-MAX .308 Win. load.

because controls are ambidextrous, with a paddle-style magazine release on the left side of the receiver and a push-button magazine release on the right side. Many right-handed shooters will find favor with this arrangement, as well, once they find out how easy it is to manipulate the magazine release with either hand. Otherwise, standard safety and bolt-release buttons are mounted on each side of the receiver.

The 18-inch, 4140 steel barrel may be a thin-profile one, but it has 5R rifling with a 1 in 10 twist. A lot of claims have been made for 5R rifling, including superior accuracy, reduced friction, more velocity, less fouling and longer barrel life. Whether all of these claims are true is open to debate, but I believe 5R barrels foul less and are easier to clean. That makes sense when you consider that these five-groove barrels have lands with angular sides, so there aren't as many sharp

The M&P10 has a clamped-on gas block with a Picatinny rail where you can mount a front sight.



“...EACH OF US WAS  
SOMEWHAT  
ASTONISHED AT THE  
PERFORMANCE OF THE  
M&P10...”



The muzzle is topped off with a proprietary, patent-pending flash hider.



Day one of the shooting school included first-rate coaching in field shooting positions and a lot of trigger time with Hornady's 168-gr. A-MAX .308 Win load.

angles or areas where fouling can accumulate. I haven't seen any empirical data that proves 5R rifling delivers better accuracy than other rifling types, but all of the 5R-barreled rifles I've shot to date have been very accurate.

Otherwise, the M&P10 is a tough, no-frills rifle designed to handle rough duty. The receivers are machined from 7075 T6 aluminum and have a hard anodized black protective finish. As you would expect, the rear of the receiver is AR-15-like, while the front is beefed up to handle .308 ammo. One extra touch I like are the grooves machined along the leading edge of the magazine well for those who like to grip that area with their non-shooting hand. I also like the fact that the receiver has a forward assist, which can be an aid in loading quietly when hunting.

The upper is a flattop, for mounting optics or sights. Out in front, you'll find a clamped-on gas block (the rifle has a mid-length gas system) with a Picatinny rail on top where you can mount a front sight and a sling attachment underneath. The muzzle wears a proprietary, patent-pending

flash hider.

The carrier is, of course, a hybrid design, proportioned like any .223 carrier at the rear. Up front, the carrier and bolt are bulked up to .308 proportions. The bolt is made of 9310 steel. The carrier is chrome-lined, as are the gas key and firing pin.

One thing I wasn't crazy about was the M&P10's trigger. It's not terrible, mind you, and it's better than many factory AR triggers, but it's the one thing I would probably quickly replace on the rifle. The trigger broke at an average pull weight of 5 pounds, 15 ounces, as measured by my Lyman trigger pull gauge. It had some creep in it, but I could stage it pretty effectively with a slow trigger squeeze, and its consistency allowed me to get a good feel for when the trigger would break.

## MAKING M&P MAGIC

The trigger certainly didn't get in the way during the long-range shooting school, which began in no-nonsense fashion the night we arrived with some in-depth instruction from our NRA Outdoors instructors. This class is primarily designed to



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In addition to ambidextrous controls, you'll find a forward assist button on the right side of the receiver.

teach hunters how to shoot accurately out to 1,000 yards and instill the confidence that will enable them to make shots at shorter distances under field conditions.

Discussion covered a lot of ground, from understanding the differences between BDC, MOA and MIL scope reticles to the relative merits of first focal plane and second focal plane scopes. The instructors helped to demystify the voodoo-like effects of wind, temperature and air density, and coached us on how to read mirage and how to use it to our advantage. We spent a good amount of time learning how to use the custom-cut turrets on the Huskemaw scopes, and – equally important – how to work effectively in shooter/spotter teams.

Day one found us on a range set up by SubMOA Firearms near Henefer, Utah. The range immediately got my attention because the first – and closest – targets that we would be shooting were at 400 yards. Steel targets were set up in 100-yard increments after that out to 1,000 yards. From the bench, shots at 400 yards were dead on. It was almost too easy. I dialed the scope to 500 yards and,



The only modification made to the rifle for the long-range shooting school was the addition of a Magpul PRS (Precision Rifle/Sniper) buttstock.





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again, the steel rang, just as it did at 600 and 700 yards. Of course, many of these hits were aided by our newly acquired skills as spotters, as we took turns watching the trace from the bullets, registering hits and calling out windage corrections.

My “light bulb moment” came when shooting at 800 yards, or half a mile, if you wish. I threw a few rounds out just to hit the steel and then got serious about my shooting technique to see what kind of group the M&P10 would deliver. To my surprise, it produced a group that you could just about cover with your hand, and it occurred to me that the M&P10 was performing above – make that way above – the level any of us reasonably expected it to.

Things got even more interesting after that, as everyone pretty much skipped the 900-yard targets and began picking on the steel 15-inch square targets at 1,000 yards. Everyone hit them, too, when they got the wind doped correctly.

On day two, we headed up into the mountains of southwestern Wyoming to shoot at long-range targets set up to duplicate actual hunting conditions in locations where some nice elk and mule deer are harvested annually. The first stop, at an elevation of 8,330 feet, featured targets at 400, 650 and 750 yards. The M&P10 was again up to the task as our instructors coached us on field shooting positions and how to shoot most accurately with bipods and shooting sticks.

Our simulated hunting conditions got a little too real at our next stop, at 9,150 feet in elevation, when we encountered showers and hail from an approaching thunderstorm that eventually chased us out of a large meadow, but not before we did considerable damage to targets placed at distances ranging from 425 to 770 yards.

For our final stop of the afternoon, we dropped down to the flatlands to shoot across a lake at several targets set up at similar distances. This spot featured wind, and lots of it, initially, which made for some tricky shooting. Our instructors fiendishly added to the challenge by staging a quick contest that required everyone to dial their scopes to zero and remove magazines. At a signal, we then had to load the gun, dial in the range, acquire targets, make the proper windage

correction without a spotter and hit the targets – all while working against a timer.

It was a humbling experience, as yours truly was the first shooter who, in my haste, forgot to dial in the correct range on the scope turret. I took a certain amount of smug satisfaction in the fact that half of my fellow shooters did exactly the same thing – even after I showed them how not to do it.

The big takeaway from the experience, apart from the fact that gun writers are merely human, after all, is what you can do with a stock factory rifle with the right optics, the right training and the right ammo.

When it all comes together with the M&P10, magic happens. **GW**



## Going Long M&P10

### SPECIFICATIONS Smith & Wesson M&P10 Rifle

**Caliber:** .308 Win./7.62x51

**Action:** semi-automatic, direct impingement

**Capacity:** 10 rounds with supplied magazine

**Barrel:** 18 in., 5R rifling, 1 in 10 twist

**Weight:** 7.71 lbs.

**Receiver:** 7075 T6 aluminum, hard anodized black finish

**Stock:** 6-position CAR

**Chromed components:** gas key, bolt carrier, firing pin

**Controls:** ambidextrous

**Bolt material:** 9310 steel

**Barrel material:** 4140 steel

**MSRP:** \$1,619



**LEFT** Here, the author tags a simulated elk at more than 500 yards in a high mountain meadow in Wyoming. Notice how the bipod is “loaded” against shooting sticks for a solid shooting platform – one of many nice tricks taught by NRA Outdoors instructors.

**TOP** After putting a few shots on steel, the author focused on shooting technique with the M&P10 and was rewarded when the rifle produced this tight group at a distance of half a mile.

*“...THE M&P10 IS A TOUGH,  
NO-FRILLS RIFLE DESIGNED TO  
HANDLE ROUGH DUTY.”*



Smith & Wesson Marketing Communications Director Paul Pluff assists in spotting shots for shooters on day one of the long-range shooting school.

#### CONTACT

**Battenfeld Technologies**  
BattenfeldTechnologies.com

**Brownells**  
Brownells.com

**Blackhawk**  
Blackhawk.com

**Hornady Ammunition**  
Hornady.com

**Huskemaw Optics**  
HuskemawOptics.com

**Magpul Industries**  
Magpul.com

**Nagel's Gun Shop**  
NagelsGuns.net

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Smith-Wesson.com

**Sport Ear**  
SportEar.com/hearing-protection

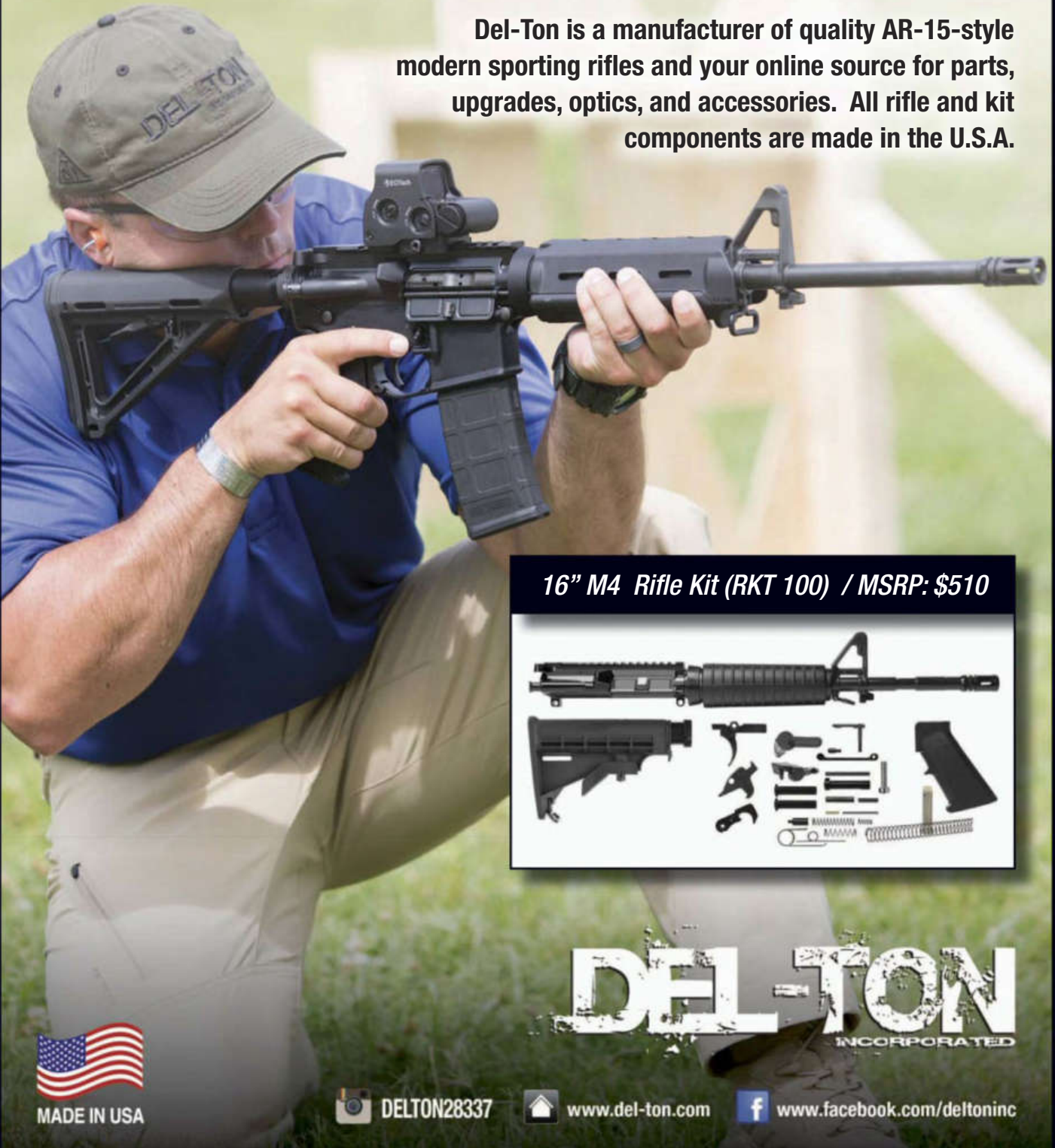


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# MARKS

## the Spot

The Browning X-Bolt Hunter is available in .308 Win. and fifteen other calibers.





## **BROWNING'S X-BOLT HUNTER** IN .308 WINCHESTER IS HANDSOME, EASY CARRYING...AND ROCKS RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX.

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY DAVE WORKMAN

**B**ECAUSE I'VE BEEN FASCINATED by accurate rifles for a long time, I expected good things from a new Browning X-Bolt Hunter, but what the test model — chambered for the reliable .308 Winchester cartridge — delivered was better.

That's not fluff or puffery. This really is an impressive specimen; so much so that I wished it had been with me on previous deer hunting trips along the breaks of the Snake River in southeast Washington. It's not only a handsome rifle, but at 6.5 pounds it's an easy carrying, graceful and wholly reliable hunting tool that would be a welcome addition to any gun cabinet or autumn camp. Add a scope and you're still

in the 7.5-pound range.

The X-bolt, which is available in 16 calibers from the newest in .22-250 Remington and .223 Remington all the way to .375 H&H Magnum, has an octagonal button-rifled barrel with a target crown. The sport contour barrels are free-floated and, along with the receiver, wear a low-luster blue finish.

I was particularly impressed with the wood. It's high-grade walnut with precise 18 LPI cut checkering on the grip and forend, and it is trimmed for weight. On my test model, the wood grain was second to none. It had a satin gloss finish and Browning installs a new Inflex Technology recoil pad that makes it a delight to shoot, but more about that in a minute.





The X-Bolt design features a 60-degree lift for smooth and fast cycling.

## THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

The solid steel receiver is drilled and tapped for Browning X-Lock scope bases featuring four screw holes for an absolutely solid mount, to which I can attest after running various loads through the action. It fed everything without a hitch from the detachable, four-round polymer rotary magazine.

I like a rotary magazine, whether it's in a Ruger 10/22 or my vintage Model 99 Savage. The design has never let me down, but the thing one might notice with the Browning design is that it rotates clockwise during the loading process, while other magazines go counter-clockwise when they're being loaded. It takes a little getting used to, but after a few turns at the range I was getting the hang of it.

Maybe the most important feature on any rifle is the trigger. Browning designed the X-Bolt Hunter with what it calls the Feather Trigger, and it's adjustable, not that it seemed to need any tinkering right out of the box. It broke crisply on every shot and I didn't feel a bit of creep.

But this trigger is a piece of work. Fac-

tory-set at about 3.5 pounds, it's screw adjustable from 3 to 5 pounds. The trigger mechanism features hard chromed steel components inside an alloy housing, and the actual trigger surface has a gold plated finish that definitely adds a touch of class.

The X-Bolt design features a 60-degree bolt lift for fast cycling. It's smooth and, as promised in company literature, it keeps your thumb and fingers from banging into the scope. For starters, I fitted the rifle with a Leupold Mark 2 Tactical Hunter scope in 3-9X40mm, and then switched that out for a Redfield 3-9X40mm Revolution. That told me the rifle will work with more than one glass, and while the Leupold is an excellent model that I've used for other chores, it's got a 1/2-MOA click adjustment whereas the Redfield is a 1/4-MOA model, allowing for a bit more fine-tuning.

For those unfamiliar with Browning's clever bolt unlock button, this is perhaps a better alternative to a three-position bolt safety than anyone might have imagined. It has worked flawlessly in my experience with Browning rifles that feature the design, and

*"ALL OF THIS  
TOGETHER  
MAKES THE  
BROWNING ONE  
OF THE SAFEST  
RIFLES I'VE SEEN  
IN RECENT  
MEMORY."*

that's saying something because I'm a fan of three-position bolt safeties.

This button is located at the top of the bolt handle. When there's a round in the chamber and the safety is on, you can press down on this button and cycle the bolt open to remove the round safely without fear of an accidental discharge. I'm no gun engineer, but after fiddling with this design feature over the past couple of years on other guns, it's no stretch of credulity to conclude that



When there's a round in the chamber and the safety is on, this button comes up. To safely unload the rifle, push the button down and cycle the bolt.



The two-position safety is located at the rear of bolt. This image shows the chamber is empty, but when there's a round in the chamber and the rifle is cocked, this little loaded chamber indicator is visible.



A gold-plated trigger adds a bit of class to the X-Bolt Hunter, and it breaks crisply at 3.5 pounds from the factory.

some careful thought went into this.

There's a two-position thumb safety at the rear of the action, and you'll also find a loaded chamber indicator that projects rearward from under the bolt when there's a round in the chamber. All of this together makes the Browning one of the

safest rifles I've seen in recent memory.

Just to prove it to myself — for the umpteenth time — down at the range one afternoon when the place was deserted, I ran a round into the chamber, settled the crosshairs on a 100-yard target and pressed the trigger with the safety engaged.



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The bolt release is simple and located on the rear of the receiver, left side.

*"...AT 6.5 POUNDS  
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EASY CARRYING,  
GRACEFUL AND  
WHOLLY  
RELIABLE  
HUNTING TOOL..."*

Nothing happened, not even a click. I pressed down on the bolt unlock button and cranked out the cartridge. That was all that happened. No misfire, no *nuthin'*! That's exactly what was supposed to happen.

### RECOIL CONTROL

I've got to say something about the Inflex Technology recoil pads. Longtime readers will know that I've talked previously about being recoil sensitive, which probably came from learning to shoot a centerfire rifle that had a steel buttplate. For a skinny 12-year-

The magazine fits flush to the stock, with a user-friendly release just in front.



HECKLER & KOCH



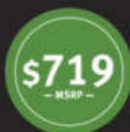
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old kid, that's not the kind of rifle to learn with, but it was the only centerfire rifle my dad had.

Fortunately, today's technology has given us a variety of materials that absorb energy, and Browning's recoil pad is made from good stuff. The .308 Winchester isn't a really nasty round, but it does throw a punch to the rear when it goes off. I've got a couple of other rifles in .308, and a couple in .30-06, and they all have modern recoil pads that actually make them a pleasure to shoot.

The Browning X-Bolt Hunter is a lightweight rifle, which might have translated to more felt recoil, but thanks to the Inflex Technology pad, that's not the case. The pad makes this rifle a winner all by itself. All that other stuff about accuracy, reliability and handsome good looks is gravy!

I ran both 150- and 165-grain factory ammo through the Browning during the test. I must say that this rifle seemed to like the heavier bullets a little better, with its 1:12-inch rifling twist. Out of a 22-inch barrel that's almost two full rotations, and for



The easily recognizable Browning logo appears on the trigger guard.



Handsome 18 LPI cut checkering can be found on the grip and forend.



Forend checkering is crisp and eye-catching, and it also provides a no-slip gripping surface.

This Redfield 3-9x40mm was one of two scopes the author used on the rifle during his evaluation.



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Browning rings hold the scope (in this case, a Leupold Mark 2) solid, thanks to four-screw bases.



the fellow who brews up his own loads at the bench, my guess is that the right load combination will make this rifle a one-hole tack driver off a sandbag rest with enough range time.

With multiple hunting seasons either underway or right around the corner, this is the time of year when

people start thinking about buying a new rifle, for themselves or a new hunter. The Browning X-Bolt Hunter would make a good choice in my humble opinion. Thanks to its weight, it makes for an easy all-day carry, it is accurate, the action is reliable, and it truly is "plenty of rifle." **GW**

#### CONTACT

**Browning**  
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Workman visited the range a couple of times, zeroing the rifle off a sandbag rest.



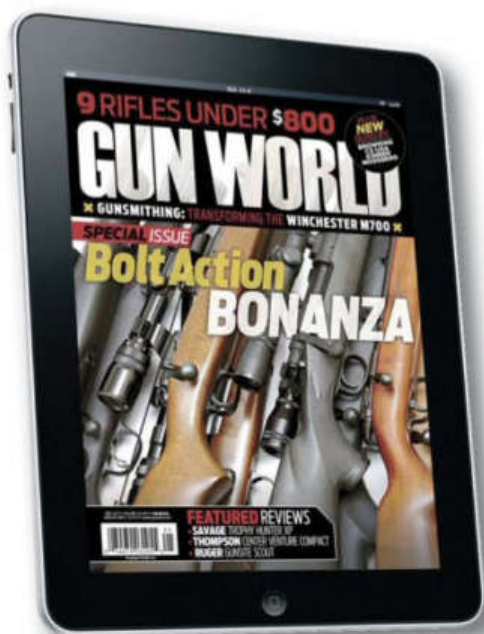
# X MARKS the Spot

## SPECIFICATIONS

### Browning's X-Bolt Hunter

**Model:** X-Bolt Hunter  
**Manufacturer:** Browning  
**Action:** Bolt  
**Caliber:** .308 Win. (Available in 16 calibers)  
**Magazine:** Detachable polymer, rotary design  
**Capacity:** Four  
**Barrel:** 22 inches, matte blue steel  
**Stock:** Grade 1 black walnut with 18 LPI cut checkering  
**Recoil pad:** Inflex  
**Length of pull:** 13-5/8 inches  
**Weight:** 6.5 pounds

**MSRP: \$899.99**



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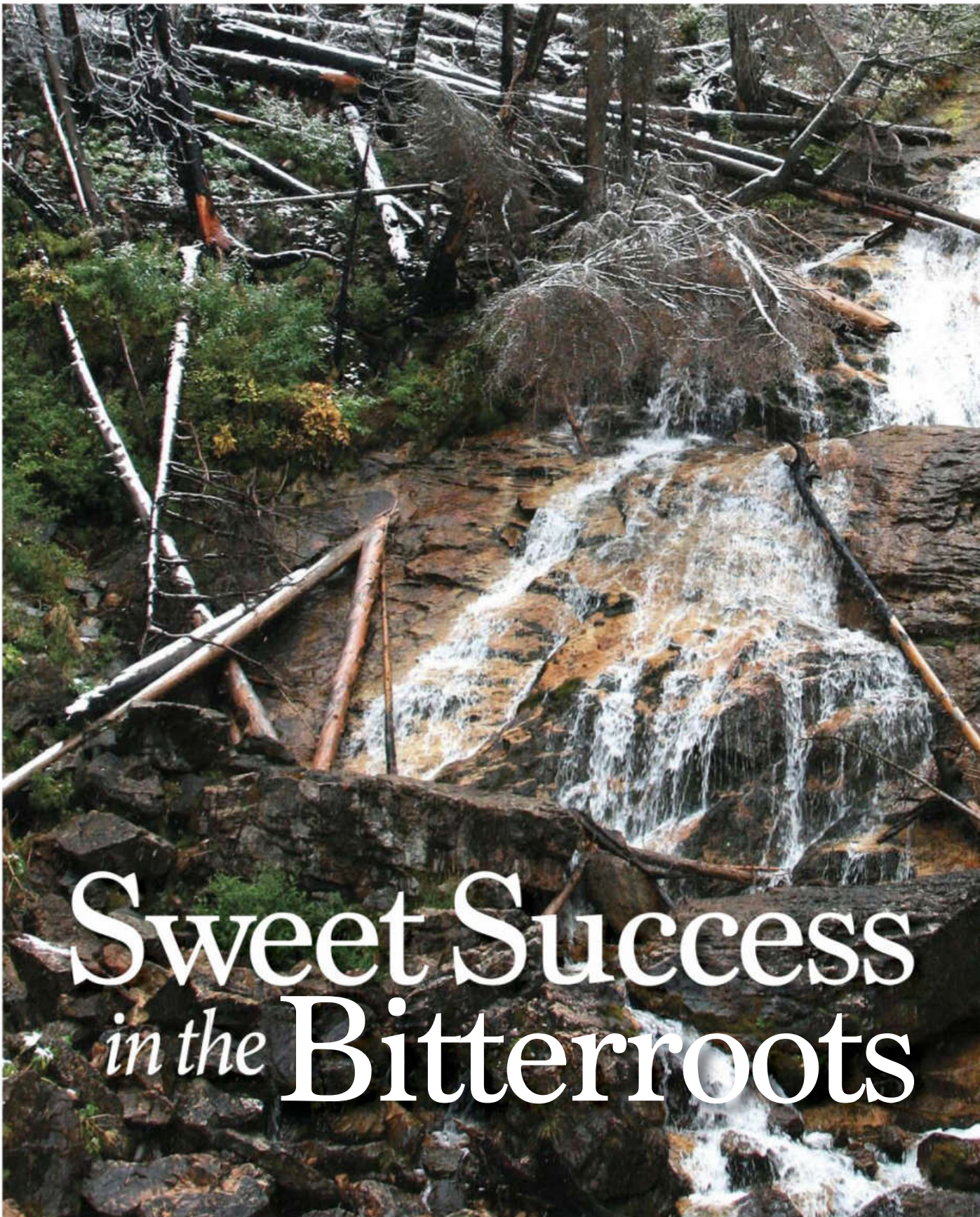


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# Sweet Success *in the* Bitterroots





"At an extreme angle high overhead, we could just barely make out a band of sheep clinging precariously to the cliff face..."

## A SINGLE LICENSE, SOME CAREFUL RECONNAISSANCE, AND A LUCKY SLICE OF SHEEP HORN LEAD TO AN ADVENTURE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN MONTANA.

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY THOMAS C. TABOR

**P**ERHAPS IT WAS NOTHING MORE than a happy coincidence, but a couple of years ago when I commissioned a custom rifle chambered for .270 Weatherby, I chose to use a piece of real bighorn sheep horn for the pistol grip cap.

For years, I'd applied for a limited quota license to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in several western states without one iota of success. This past year, however, instead of receiving my usual refund, I was the winner of the only sheep tag in Montana's Unit 261, located in the west-central part of the state between the pristine Bitterroot Mountain Range on the west and the beautiful Sapphire Range to the east.

Unlike Alaska and Canada, where much of the hunting is on publicly owned wilderness lands, the sheep habitat in the lower 48 is often comprised of Forestry Service land and privately held ranches, and that was precisely the case for Unit 261.



Careful glassing of the area revealed these rams bedded on top of a cliff outcropping.





## LONE TAG DILEMMA

The local game warden offered his congratulations, but then shared the bad news. The sheep population had recently suffered a devastating disease that drastically thinned out the herds; so much so that the department had reduced its usual three licenses to the single one I had drawn. While it was good luck on my part, it certainly lessened my chances of success. Fortunately, I had a couple of aces in my hunting hand, namely John Englert and Jim York, two hunting buddies who knew the area much better than I did.

My early season scouting turned up a few ewes, lambs and young rams, but nothing worthy of burning a tag. The weather was in the balmy 60s with mild nights well above freezing, but after waiting so many years for a ram license, I wasn't willing to wait for the rut or a weather change to bring the "big boys" out of the high country. My goal was to start early and hunt as long as needed to be successful, and if that took the full 2-1/2 months of the season, so be it.

Most of my encounters included small bands of two or three animals, although on one occasion a herd of twenty-one mysteriously appeared on an open hillside that I'd thoroughly glassed only 20 minutes earlier without a sheep in sight. Unfortunately, the herd only consisted of ewes, lambs and a few immature rams. Nevertheless, it was a hopeful sign and provided me with a great opportunity to watch their movements.

I'd scouted and hunted off and on for several weeks before John and Jim could join me, but when they did, they brought good fortune. After spending the better part of one morning on a privately owned cattle ranch and spotting only a couple of huge mule deer bucks (which I had no license for), we decided to change locales. Figuring we'd head up into the higher country of the National Forest, we made our way down to the main road and off the ranch property, all the time scanning the craggy cliff faces for any potential animals.

We weren't far outside the ranch when

John sounded the alert from the backseat of my truck. At an extreme angle high overhead, we could just barely make out a band of sheep clinging precariously to the cliff face, where five great rams seemed to be competing for what little vegetation the rocky terrain was willing to give up.

At first it appeared that at least three of the rams were close to the same size at over three-quarters of a curl, but on second glance from the back, one in particular stood out due to its much heavier horn bases and a wider spread.

## SHEEP STANDOFF

But as opportune as the situation appeared on the surface, we ran smack dab into a real predicament. Although we were well within the boundaries of the National Forest, there are often small tracts of land in these areas that remain in private hands, and angling off the main road was a driveway leading to a residence less than a quarter-mile in the distance. Although this tract of privately



This large herd, consisting of ewes, lambs and possibly some very young rams came as a welcome surprise in the early season.

held property was surrounded by a sea of National Forest land, the private land was where the rams had taken up residency, and I'd failed to get permission to hunt on that particular property.

But after thoroughly assessing the quality of the rams, I came to the conclusion that the one in particular was exactly what I'd been looking for. At about 7/8 curl, it would make a trophy that I could really be proud of.

We made our way up to the residence and knocked on the door, but the only greeting we received was from a group of barking dogs. Frustrated, we drove back to where we could once again glass our prey. Though they hadn't wandered far, they appeared to be in the process of moving higher, which seemed to be a good thing. The National Forest boundary wasn't far away and it appeared that the sheep were moving off the exposed cliff face in favor of cooler locales in the timbered public land.

*"AT AN EXTREME ANGLE HIGH OVERHEAD, WE COULD JUST BARELY MAKE OUT A BAND OF SHEEP CLINGING PRECARIOUSLY TO THE CLIFF FACE..."*

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PERFORMANCE TUNED





After thoroughly analyzing the trophy quality of the rams, the author aimed and carefully squeezed off his shot.



Jim York was quick to congratulate Tom on his success. His handcrafted custom .270 Weatherby Magnum rifle, built by Dan Coffin of Victor, Montana, was the perfect match for the hunt.

Soon we'd formulated a plan.

We'd work our way above the rams, then drop into a canyon and work it out, hopefully waylaying our prey on the National Forestry property. Fortunately, there was a narrow, winding road—more of a two-track, really—which gave us access into the mountains high above our quarry. Jim agreed to take the truck back down off the mountain, allowing John and I to push the brushy canyon out.

Fighting the dense entanglement, with a muddy swamp bottom and rolling shell rock under our feet, we slowly and quietly—or as quietly as that hostile environment would permit—moved toward the spot where we thought we'd meet up with our rams. Unfortunately, our well-laid plan failed. When we reached the bottom of the draw, there was no sign of the sheep.

We headed back to the main road again, only to be surprised that the rams hadn't moved into the brush at all. The five had moved only a short distance from where we originally spotted them, and a lone ewe now joined them. They had simply bedded down on a narrow ledge near the vertical cliff face.



Frustrated, we made our way back to the house again, but once again found that all humans remained absent. And, since the dogs couldn't grant us permission to hunt, we were essentially stymied. We had little choice in the matter but to abandon our hopes of getting an opportunity at a shot, so we reluctantly decided to head further east and into the higher country in hopes of finding other opportunities.

## GO, GO, GO!

Over the next few hours we spotted a couple of small herds, mostly consisting of ewes and lambs, but we simply couldn't get that group of five out of our heads, and the vision of the 7/8 curl finally drew us back. We figured they would be long gone by now, but we just had to see for ourselves.

When we'd made it back for the third time, we were excited to see that the rams remained and were only a short distance from their original location. Better yet, someone had finally come home to the residence. Smoke was coming from the chimney now, and the porch light had been turned off. After quickly working my way through the dogs—we'd all become quite friendly by now—I knocked and was greeted pleasantly by a lady's voice saying, "Come in."

I walked in and quickly explained our situation to the two ladies of the house—that I had been lucky enough to draw a bighorn sheep tag, that it was the only tag in the area, and that my friends and I were really were wondering about hunting on their property.

Before I could even add that we'd spotted some rams on the cliff face and were hoping to go after them, the younger of the ladies excitedly said, "Go, go, go! Quick! Go shoot one!"

I was so stunned by the lady's overly affirmative response that I hesitated for a moment, but she hurried me out the door and on my way to the stalk. In all my years of hunting and asking for permission to hunt on private property, I certainly had never received a response quite like that one.



This handloaded .270 Weatherby Magnum cartridge was comprised of a Nosler Partition 130-grain bullet, IMR-4831 powder and a Federal GM215M primer. The bullet mushroomed perfectly, maintaining 60% of its original weight.

## FINAL FULFILLMENT


A short time later, as the sun began to descend over the Bitterroots, I found myself in position for the shot. Carefully monitoring the rams, I finally settled on the largest and most impressive one we'd picked out earlier. I quickly settled my crosshairs low on the ram's shoulder to allow for the steep angle of the shot and squeezed the trigger, sending the 130-grain Nosler Partition to its mark.

The sounds that followed the report of my Weatherby-chambered rifle were both comforting and scary. Upon impact, the ram instantly stumbled, then came crashing off the rocky cliff face, bringing an avalanche of rocks and debris with it.

Over and over the big ram tumbled, stirring fears in each of us as to the amount of damage that might be done to my potential trophy. When he finally came to a stop, we made our way to the ram and assessed the damage. A couple inches of one horn tip had been broken off, but it certainly could have been a lot worse.


While not thrilled about the broken horn, I was otherwise very happy. The ram truly was a beauty, with nice widespread horns with 16-inch bases and a 7/8 curl. So, after field dressing what would likely be a once-in-lifetime ram, we returned to the house to thank our gracious hosts—and their dogs—for allowing us to hunt on their property. **GW**

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# UX

## UMAREX AIR GUNS



# Versatility



IMR 4166 is a versatile powder for loading many mid-sized cases. Along with 4451 and 7977, it is one of three new Enduron Technology powders from IMR. (Henry DeKuyper photo)

# Counts



IMR 4166, ONE OF THREE NEW IMR POWDERS WITH ENDURON TECHNOLOGY, OFFERS RELOADERS EXCEPTIONAL STABILITY ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF TEMPERATURES.

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY JAMES E. HOUSE

**M**OST HOBBYISTS HAVE SOMETHING in common, and that includes handloaders. We anxiously await each new product announcement, hoping that it could be just what we're looking for. After all, those of us who shoot several rifles in multiple calibers are typically trying to improve something. Therefore, a new series of powders might even lead to a feeling of elation among reloaders.

Hodgdon, which markets IMR products, has previously offered powders in the Extreme series that exhibit exceptional stability over a range of temperatures. Some popular products of this series are H322, Varget, and H4350. Hodgdon also entered new territory with the CFE 223 and CFE Pistol powders that reduce copper fouling.

Now, three new IMR powders not only give reproducible results over a wide range of temperatures, but also offer the advantage of reducing copper fouling. This series, known by the name Enduron, includes IMR 4166, 4451 and 7977.

The burning rates of these powders cover reloading possibilities for the vast majority of centerfire rifle calibers. For example, IMR 4166 is similar in burning rate to the extremely versatile IMR 4064. That means it is suitable for use in cartridges that range from the .223 Remington to the .30-06 Springfield, two calibers that are among the most popular.

Loading data for the new IMR Enduron powders are not widely available. As a result, I obtained a supply of IMR 4166 for testing as soon as I could. With two of the top five most reloaded rifle cartridges being the .223 Remington and .308 Winchester, it seemed like the place to begin. However, the .22-250 Remington is also extremely popular, so it was included. Being a fan of several classic rifle calibers, it seemed necessary to include the .257 Roberts to round out the project.





Because it has a medium burning rate, IMR 4166 can be used in cases such as (left to right) .223 and .22-250 Remington, .257 Roberts, and .308 Winchester.

## READY FOR TESTING

Remington cases were used to prepare loads in .223 and .22-250 Remington calibers. Winchester cases were used for .308 cartridges and Winchester +P cases were employed in the .257 Roberts loads. Both the .223 and .22-250 Remington loads were tested in Savage Axis rifles. A Ruger 77 Hawkeye in .257 Roberts was used for testing the loads in that caliber. A Winchester Model 70 Featherweight was used in testing the .308 loads. All of the rifles have barrels measuring 22 inches. Winchester large rifle primers were utilized in loading all calibers except the .223 in which case Winchester small rifle primers were employed.

All powder charges were weighed on an electronic scale and velocities were measured at 10 feet from the muzzle using a Competition Electronics ProChrono chronograph. For each load, five cartridges were tested. In all calibers, the powder charges chosen were



This 0.54-inch group was produced with a load consisting of the 53-grain Hornady V-Max bullet and 35.3 grains of IMR 4166.

## LOADING DATA AND RESULTS OBTAINED WITH IMR 4166 POWDER

BULLET	CASE	O.L., IN.	GR.	VEL.	LOAD1 GR.	LOAD2 VEL.
.223 Remington						
50 gr Hornady SPSX	Rem.	2.242	23.5	2886	24.5	2989
53 gr Hornady V-Max	Rem.	2.255	23.5	2791	24.5	2927
.22-250 Remington						
53 gr Hornady V-Max	Rem.	2.350	33.5	3525	35.3	3683
55 gr Hornady SP	Rem.	2.352	33.5	3486	34.8	3513
.257 Roberts						
75 gr Sierra HP	Win. +P	2.761	40.0	3061	41.5	3211
87 gr Hornady SP	Win. +P	2.787	38.0	2940	39.5	3002
.308 Winchester						
125 Nosler Ball. Tip	Win.	2.775	43.0	2749	45.0	2875
130 Hornady SP	Win.	2.680	43.0	2672	45.0	2764



The .308 Winchester loads were prepared with 125-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip and 130-grain Hornady Spitzer bullets.

Velocities are shown as the average for five shots. These loads were safe and reliable in the author's rifles, but neither the author nor the publisher accepts any responsibility for their preparation and use by others or for typographical errors.

based on the limited data that was available. Increments in charge weights were considered to be from a starting load to a medium load in each case, but not necessarily a maximum charge. Loading parameters and the results that were obtained are summarized in the above table.

Based on previous results I have obtained with the rifles used in this project, it's apparent that all of the .22-250 loads performed very well with three of the four loads tested giving groups measuring under an inch at 100 yards. The .257 Roberts has never been a tack driver and the 1.04-inch group produced with the 75-grain Sierra hollow point and 40.0 grains of IMR 4166 is about as good as I get.

For many years, the majority of my loading for centerfire rifles has been for calibers such as .222, .223 and .22-250 Remington, .30-30 and .308 Winchester, and a few others. The results obtained in this project show that IMR 4166 would be a good choice for such calibers. If you are looking to load for a mid-size rifle cartridge, you should experiment with IMR 4166. After all, it burns very similarly to IMR 4064 and that powder is legendary for its versatility. **GW**



IMR 4166 is a short grain extruded powder.

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# French Toast

RAISE A BRIMMING  
BEAKER OF BEAUJOLAIS  
TO **THE MANURHIN  
MR73**, A CLASSIC  
IMPORT IN A  
SERIOUS  
CALIBER



There is a growing cult following for the Manurhin MR73, a French-made revolver chambered for several calibers including .357 Magnum, like this fixed-sight specimen.





► TEXT & PHOTOS BY DAVE WORKMAN

**T**HE FRENCH-MADE MANURHIN MR73 six-shot double-action revolver—chambered for the potent .357 Magnum—is something of a rare classic that is rapidly approaching “cult” status, whether equipped with adjustable sights or in a fixed-sight version.

Recently, an attorney pal of mine (Miko Tempski, who is also an FFL) managed to get his hands on a few of these not-so-common revolvers with fixed sights

that apparently saw previous service with French police. These revolvers are just a hair larger overall than a Smith & Wesson Model 19 and are tight and accurate.

So, when my amigo asked me to knock together a pancake-style holster for the one gun he kept for personal use—he ended up selling the others pretty quickly—I insisted that the job include a range visit so I could see just what makes these Manurhins so popular.

It didn’t take very long for me to come away impressed.





The author was impressed with the hammer-mounted firing pin.

While models are available with adjustable sights, the one Workman sampled had fixed sights. Still, it fired just slightly to the left and a bit low, but once he got used to it he managed some good center-of-mass groups.

## FIT AND FINISH

Tempski's specimen wears a 4-inch barrel with a full underlug. It has a crisp trigger that lets off at about 3.5-4 pounds in single-action and the double-action squeeze is smooth and comfortable, thanks to the use of small roller bearings in the trigger mechanism. The single- and double-action trigger pulls are both adjustable via small screws inside the grip frame.

Unlike American made double-actions, the crane on this French revolver opens clear across the front of the frame, rather than just off the left side. I can't say whether this enhances the gun's overall operation, but it certainly doesn't hurt it.

With full-house factory .357 Magnums, this Frenchman roars like a western mountain lion. The muzzle blast is impressive, as is the muzzle flash.

The finish showed considerable holster wear along both sides of the barrel and in a couple of other spots, but the cylinder closed tightly and there was not a hint of wobble in the crane. I noted that the cylinder stop comes up and locks solidly into a slot centrally positioned over each chamber.

Overall, for a gun that was probably made

a couple of decades ago, the bore was in remarkably good shape, and my guess is that this particular handgun spent lots of time on a belt and less time at the range.

*"...EACH MR73 IS THE PRODUCT OF SEVERAL HOURS OF HAND-FITTING..."*

I did a little homework and found that each MR73 is the product of several hours of hand-fitting, which doesn't surprise me at all after the range session. Barrels are cold-hammer forged complete with rifling, which also contributes to accuracy. In studying up on this revolver, I also read that the chambers are finished with a special process for surface hardness.

As I wrote earlier, the MR73 is just a bit larger than a K-Frame Smith & Wesson, and I discovered that in a pinch my HKS speed-

loaders for the Model 19 would function with this revolver. However, I didn't have the same experience when trying HKS speedloaders designed for a Colt Python.

The handgun came with a rubber grip made by Trausch with a radical beavertail and molded checkering. I found this to be rather comfortable when shooting the Manurhin, and it sucked up a lot of recoil. Other specimens I've seen had checkered hardwood grips that were nicely finished, but in my native Pacific Northwest, I think the molded rubber grips are the better choice.

While his gun had the 4-inch barrel, Manurhin offers the MR73 in several barrel lengths ranging from 2.5 to 6 inches, all with full-length underlugs that help place weight forward for a steadier hold on target. My research also revealed that some of these guns have been offered with 8- and 10-inch barrels for use by French special weapons and tactics teams.

Over the years, the MR73 has been chambered in .22 Long Rifle, .32 S&W Long, 9mm, .38 Special and .357 Magnum, according to one history I read.

I can understand why the Gendarmerie carried these revolvers in their heyday. In a



The crane pivots off the front of the frame rather than on the left side like American-made double-action revolvers.



The requested high-rise pancake-style holster that the author knocked together carries the Manurhin tight against the body in street-ready fashion.

good quality holster, they carry rather well at just over 2.5 pounds. Miko's gun comes up fast and the fixed sights settle on target quickly. I put about a box of shells through the gun and found that in my hands, it shot a bit low and to the left with the front sight settled right on the "X" of a Birchwood-Casey target at 15 yards.

Even with fixed sights, I can see one of these revolvers being a good hunting or defense gun with a hammer punch at gunfighting distances. If this were my six-gun, I'd have no qualms about carrying it in the backcountry, or in a concealment holster for personal protection.

Now, where can you find one of these revolvers? I found a few advertised online, including a couple with an asking price in the \$2,000-\$3,000 range. Even some of the visibly used models fetch prices of several hundred dollars. That says a lot about these handguns, which obviously have their devotees. You may find them at gun shows or online at such places as GunBroker.com.

The bluing on these guns can range from superb to fair with wear. But the

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Part of the holster-building experience allowed the author some range time with the French-made .357 Magnum.

*“WITH FULL-  
HOUSE FACTORY  
.357 MAGNUMS,  
THIS FRENCHMAN  
ROARS LIKE A  
WESTERN  
MOUNTAIN LION.”*

finish doesn't affect the accuracy and it is accuracy that makes this handgun what it is.

For the street, I'd use 125-grain JHPs in the Manurhin. It can handle the energy just fine, and I ran several through it and found them to group tightly. On the trail, bullet weights in the 140-180 grain realm would be my choice. I handload all of my backcountry ammunition, using the best available data from bullet and powder manufacturers, and the Manurhin handled some of my loads quite well.

I suppose if one were to buy a Manurhin that had seen time on the street, he could either touch it up with cold blue or have it refinished. So long as the bore and chambers are in good shape, finish might be a secondary consideration. On the other hand, there is nothing quite like a handsomely blued revolver that also performs well and hits everything at which it's aimed.

So what's the big deal about used imported revolvers? Well, not all handgunners are automatically impressed with the latest semi-auto whiz-bang. Honestly, I've seen some Manurhins around, but this was my first opportunity to really put one through the paces. I can't make a blanket statement about every MR73, but if this one was an example of what one can expect from any of these guns, especially with fixed sights, you'll be in good shape. **GW**



Workman discovered that even though the Manurhin is slightly larger dimensionally than a K-Frame Smith & Wesson, his HKS speedloaders for a Model 19 worked.

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The Kutzall tool makes short work of removing the forend pads on the stock.

# Block Bedding

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY STEVE SIEBERTS

## RIFLESMITHING **THE REMINGTON 700**



All rifles get a thorough inspection prior to performing any custom work.

**S**OME RIFLE SHOOTERS PREFER wood stocks. Others like synthetic. Some go after varmints and others prefer larger game. But no matter what their preferences may be, all shooters have one thing in common: they need their rifles to be accurate.

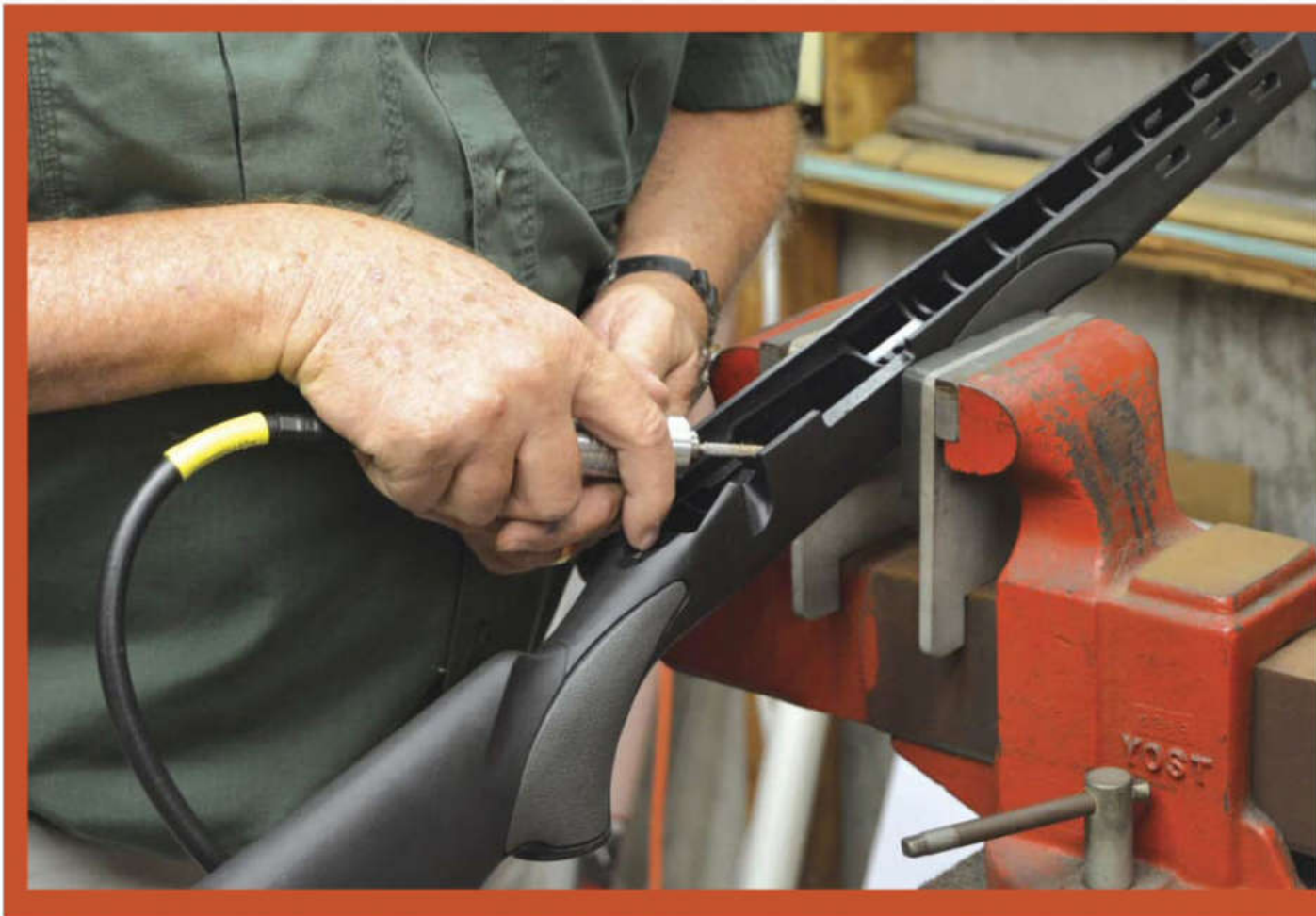
The Remington M700 is a very accurate rifle right out of the box, but it can be made even more so by the proper application of some basic gunsmithing techniques.

Regular readers will recall that a few months ago I demonstrated a spot bedding technique on a wood

stocked, heavy barreled factory Remington M700 VLS in .22-250. When I showed that procedure, I also made sure the barrel was free floated from the front of the recoil lug forward all the way to the end of the stock. I was able to improve my groups with both factory loads and handloads using that technique with minimum muss and fuss.

This month, I'll demonstrate another technique—called “block bedding”—on an M700 utilizing a synthetic factory stock. It's a very effective technique for newer factory synthetic stocks with internally structured compartments in the forend and around the action area.





## GETTING STARTED

In block bedding, we surround the recoil lug on the rifle with a giant block of solid steel. We do this by filling in the structural chambers in front of and behind the recoil lug. There are two chambers directly in front of the lug that measure about .750 inches and two chambers behind the lug that measure about 1.25 inches, so that becomes our two-inch block of steel.

We will bed this rifle at four points, like we did when spot bedding the other M700: the recoil lug, the back of the tang, and around the two guard screws underneath the rifle at the trigger guard.

After ensuring the rifle is unloaded, remove the two stock screws from the rifle and also remove the bolt. Take off the floorplate, along with the magazine box, and take the stock off the rifle.

Notice the two pads of material on the forend of the stock at the tip. They provide

upward pressure on the barrel when the stock is screwed on, keeping barrel reverberation to a minimum when firing. Take your Dremel or Foredom tool and remove these pads. Old time benchrest shooters tried this technique on wood stocks with varying success in the 60s and although it's an inexpensive way for a mass produced firearm to get a decent level of accuracy out of the box, we can do better.

## NEXT STEPS

After removing the pads, scrape out the stock material where the bedding material will eventually go. Always maintain a gap between the stock and the firearm, which will make room for the epoxy. In addition, the scraping process will rough up the stock so the epoxy will stick to it more easily. I use 120-grit sandpaper, and if I had access to a bead blasting cabinet, I would tape off the stock and bead blast the areas for the epoxy

to really rough it up. After scraping and sanding, I spray it out with brake cleaner and blow it dry.

The next step is to tape the barrel. As I mentioned, I want to free float the barrel, but this time I want to extend the bedding material out in front of the recoil lug about 3/4 of an inch, rather than have the barrel completely free floating like we did with the previous rifle.

Tape off the front of the barrel at the forend tip, and again wrap tape around the barrel 3/4 of an inch in front of the recoil lug. Look down the muzzle of the rifle to make sure the barreled action is exactly on center. If you used too much tape, it will sit too high. Everything should be leveled and centered at this point.

Next, you need to get out the modeling clay and fill the barrel channel chambers in front of the two chambers we are using that are located in front of the recoil lug. It



**LEFT** Use the Fore-dom tool with the Kutzall bit to relieve areas on the stock. This will help maintain a desired gap between the stock and the barrel.

**RIGHT** Don't forget the electrical tape on the bottom of the recoil lug. We don't want the barreled action teetering on the lug, so we put a spacer in there for it.

should go like this: from front to back, epoxy goes into the two chambers in front of the lug, then the lug chamber, then the two chambers behind the lug. We want to fill the two chambers in front of and behind the recoil lug, but we don't want to waste expensive epoxy by having it flow into chambers where it's not needed.

After that is complete, spray a release agent onto the barreled action, the stock-makers screws and the floorplate. Remove the magazine follower and spring from the floorplate to keep them from getting in the way.

Once everything is taped off and greased up and the modeling clay has been applied in places we don't want the epoxy to flow, it's time to mix out Devcon in a 2.5 to 1 ratio. Apply it to our four points starting with our chambers in and around the recoil lug.

There is a special technique to use when filling in deep areas with an epoxy

like Devcon, which has a very thick consistency. Use a Popsicle stick to apply a thick glob of epoxy down into the chamber, but then use a butter-churn action to get the bubbles out. Otherwise, you could end up with large voids and bubbles. These will negate the beneficial effects of placing a big

block of steel around the recoil lug, which is the whole reason for doing this job. You'll know you are getting the air bubbles out by the popping noises.

Once you think you have all of the epoxy in place, screw the rifle together, being careful to not screw it together too tightly, just

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The rifle, after being screwed together, will set up overnight. After that, it can be taken apart.

enough to snug it up. Place the rifle in a cradle to let the epoxy set up. Do not put the stock or the barrel in a vise to let it set up; we want the stock to sit as stress free as possible. Wipe off the excess epoxy, and let the rifle sit overnight.

In the morning or the day after, break it apart and take a look. Use the Dremel or Foredom and the structured tooth carbide bit to grind off the excess steel epoxy where it overflowed, and then degrease the entire rifle. Put everything back together and give it a good function test, making sure all of the safeties work and ensuring the rifle will feed dummy ammunition. Set the torque on the front and rear guard screws to 65 in-lbs and mount the scope.

## BEDDING BENEFITS

Block bedding is especially beneficial for heavy barreled rifles or rifles that generate quite a bit of recoil and use synthetic stocks with compartments in the forend. You'll notice that this time around we applied a bedding block in front of the recoil lug. We also bedded the barrel for 3/4 of an inch in front of the lug, whereas with spot bedding we free



The cutoff wheel on the Foredom cutting into the block to remove excess after curing.

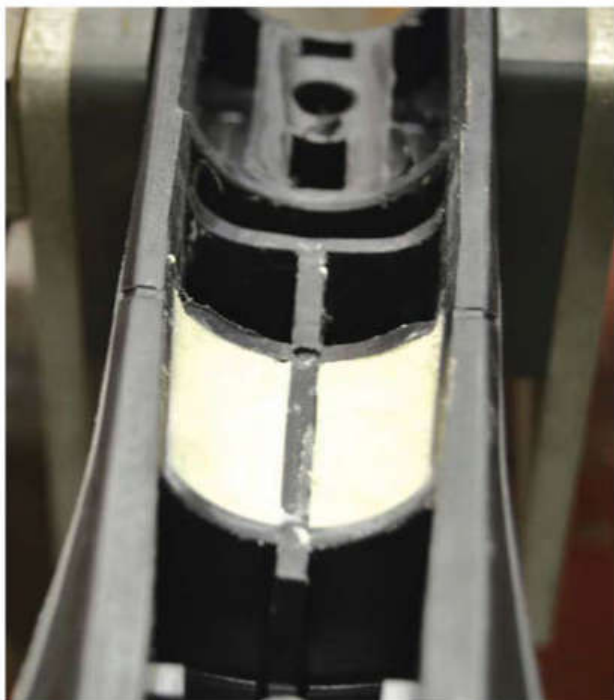
floated the entire barrel. Which technique is correct or most effective? It really depends on who you talk to. I've enjoyed good results with both methods.

In my experience, and in most cases, placing a small amount of bedding to the barrel in front of the recoil lug produces more consistent results. I believe this is due to the fact that placing a small block of support under that section of the barrel tends to dampen

the harmonics of the barrel in a positive way. Remember, when the rifle is fired and the bullet is traveling down the barrel, the barrel is acting like a whip, but it also rotates as it is snapping whip-like. A support block reduces this whip-like effect and makes the barrel whip more consistently.

So why did we remove the pads at the front of the forend on this stock? Wouldn't they have produced the same positive effect?

## "IT'S A VERY EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE FOR NEWER FACTORY SYNTHETIC STOCKS..."



Looking from front to back, there are two chambers in front of the two chambers that receive epoxy. These two preceding chambers get filled in with modeling clay to control overruns of the epoxy.

The short answer is no. By applying upward pressure at the forend, these pads apply pressure unevenly, and this pressure also causes a very inconsistent bounce or slapping effect from the stock and the forend out toward the end of the barrel.

Our goal is to produce more than just decent accuracy, especially from a potentially tack-driving caliber like the .22-250 intended for small targets at long range. This is why I'll free float the barrel, except for the first 3/4 of an inch or sometimes a full inch past the front of the recoil lug with a really heavy barrel. Some barrels may not respond to this technique, so if the rifle won't shoot and you've exhausted all other possibilities, the gunsmith can always easily remove the block in front of the lug and free float the entire barrel and see if that works.

### SETTING A TRIGGER

I also elected to install the Shilen trigger. Once the trigger is installed it needs to be adjusted for sear engagement, weight of pull and overtravel. The rear screw is for sear engagement and the two front screws adjust for weight of pull and overtravel. My routine is to set the engagement first. Both the factory housing

### TRIGGER CONTROL

Shooting this rifle brought up a unique point about firearms, ammunition testing and shooting in general. I knew from past experience that the handloads I assembled would no doubt be capable of sub-inch groups, and with a factory barrel, this is the goal. Anything between 3/4 of an inch and just under an inch should be entirely possible with the Remington heavy barreled rifle, especially in a caliber like .22-250.

So, with the excellent Nosler and Speer bullets, Reloader powder and CCI Primers, loaded in a full-length Redding die and seated to max OAL, I knew these loads should perform. On range day the handloads were fired last, so when it was time to send them down-range the rifle barrel was dirty from previously firing 30 or so rounds, and it was also hot. These two things can really open up your groups.

I shot the first group with the excellent Speer 50-grain TNT, and looking through the Nightforce spotting scope I saw that the group was a shade over an inch. So I took out five handloads using the Nosler 55-grain tipped Varmegeddon bullet. This load was also over an inch; in fact, it shot over an inch and a half.

I felt that these loads should have performed better, so I thought maybe I was just trying to hold too fine and make the shots too perfect. This is easy to do with a trigger that's two pounds or less, which sometimes causes the shooter to finesse the trigger instead of being aggressive and using good trigger control. So I took out five more rounds of the Nosler and fired them without looking at the scope, simply getting a little more aggressive with the trigger.

When I did look through the spotting scope, I saw this produced a .558 five-shot group, my best group of the day, factory or otherwise. Sometimes we try to make the shot too perfect and end up using poor trigger control, when it's best to be a little more aggressive and use steady building pressure to try to get a better surprise break on the shot.

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The Leupold 30mm varmint scope is an outstanding scope when paired with the MkIV scope bases and rings. The keeper nuts need to be torqued to 65 in-lbs using a torque wrench.

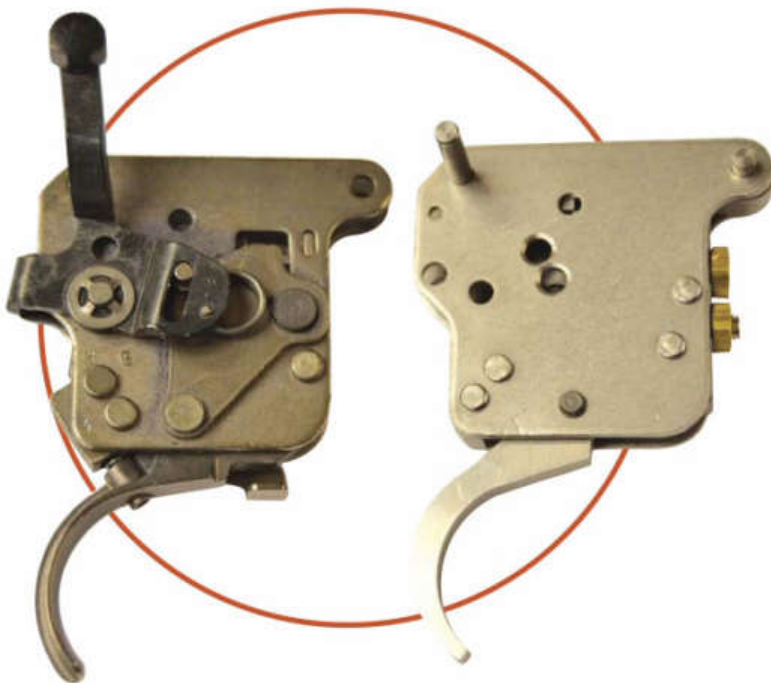
and the Shilen trigger housing have a convenient window that the gunsmith can look through to see the amount of engagement.

I look for about .010 engagement to start off with. Since it's virtually impossible to measure it, I just use my calibrated eyeball. The amount of engagement will depend on what the rifle will be used for. A bench rest rifle can go with less, whereas a rifle used for hunting will want more to prevent accidental discharges.

Once the sear engagement is set to where you think it's safe, try to get the rifle to slam fire by cocking the rifle and slamming the bolt down a few times. Also, try to cock the rifle, set the safety, pull the trigger and push the safety off. The rifle should not fire.

If it does, the engagement is insufficient. If it holds, then set the weight of pull. My rifle was set to just over two pounds, measured with both the Lyman electronic trigger pull gauge and the more accurate NRA dead weights. Both are available from Brownells. If you're using weights, the trigger needs to just clear them off the bench, no further.

Once the engagement and weight of pull are set, then set the overtravel. Again, where this is set depends on the use of the rifle. A tactical rifle will not be set as close as a pure target or varmint rifle. Remember, if the overtravel is set too close and a little dirt gets in there, the rifle may not fire. That would not be a good situa-



Factory trigger (left) and the Shilen replacement. The safety and bolt stop will be removed from the factory trigger and installed on the Shilen before the rifle is completed. Notice the plated locking nuts on the weight of pull and overtravel screws.

*“...THE SCRAPING PROCESS WILL ROUGH UP THE STOCK SO THE EPOXY WILL STICK TO IT MORE EASILY.”*



The screwdriver shows where to adjust the sear engagement and the pointer shows the window you look through to see how much engagement there is.

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tion for a tactical or dangerous game rifle that has to go bang every time. If it happens to a varmint rifle, well then the groundhog simply gets away to fight another day.

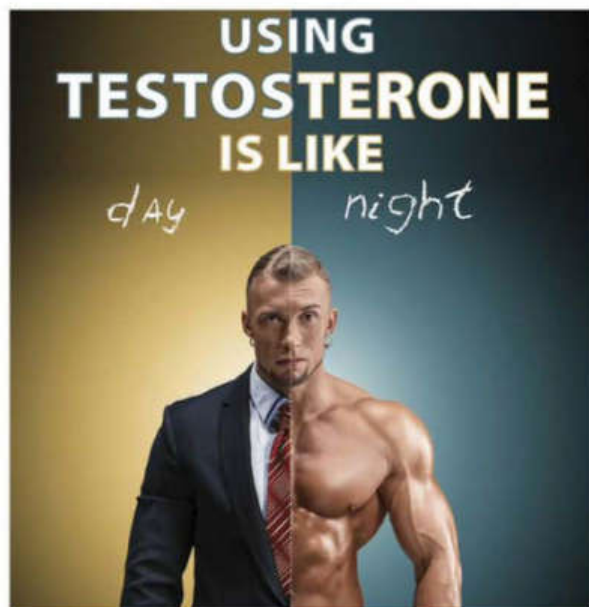
The Shilen trigger has locknuts on the weight of pull and overtravel screws, so once they are set you should lock down the locknuts to keep the settings. There's an easy way to set the overtravel screw: cock the rifle and screw in the set screw so the rifle won't fire, then cock the striker and pull the trigger, backing out the screw until the rifle fires. I normally go about 1/16 of a turn past that and lock it down. Again, this may be too close depending on the rifle's use.

#### A FINAL TEST

Taking the rifle to the range is always the best part of the build process. Weather conditions were excellent when I tested this project rifle, with temperatures in the low 80s and very little wind. I had five factory loads and two handloads to test, and they did not let me down.

The two Hornady loads and the Barnes all shot sub-inch groups. At first my handloads didn't come in under an inch, but then I made an adjustment and one of these loads shot the best group of the day.

All in all, the block bedding project came out about how I expected. The rifle shot really well and also responded well to the bedding and the addition of the Shilen trigger. This technique, along with the spot bedding I outlined in previous columns, can really make a rifle shoot excellent groups with either factory loads or handloads. **GW**



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# Big Game Beast

► TEXT & PHOTOS BY PHIL MASSARO

## THE HEYM EXPRESS BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

The Heym Express in .404  
Jeffery is expertly crafted  
and totally reliable.



**V**ERY RARELY HAVE I PICKED UP a rifle and become immediately smitten, but this is an honest tale of love at first sight.

I was headed on safari to hunt elephant in the Dete Valley, Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe, near the east side of the Hwange Park – the very same ground where Frederick Courteney Selous hunted ivory in the 1870s – and was privileged enough to be offered a Heym rifle for the trip.

While Heym is best known for its fantastic double rifles – the Model 88 is a staple among professional hunters – their bolt guns are equally impressive. As this safari would include plains game as well, the good folks at Heym and I figured a .404 Jeffery would make a good choice of caliber. It would be plenty of gun for the elephant, yet still be able to hit distant targets should the longer shot present itself.

From the instant I removed the rifle from the Pelican case at Cocksackie Gun & Bow, I felt it balance perfectly, and how it rose to my shoulder almost effortlessly. The express sights were “right there”, meaning that the bold gold bead settled into the wide, shallow “V” without adjusting to the stock’s cheekpiece at all. The feel of the slim forend was reminiscent of a fine English double-barreled shotgun, and the length of pull fit as if it were made for me. This wasn’t lust; this was head-over-heels love.

As an added bonus, it came with a Swarovski Z6i 1-6x24 in detachable Talley rings. This particular scope has the circle-dot reticle, and was illuminated to boot; perfect for hog hunting or for Cape buffalo in the shadows. The scope took adjustment very well, and despite the fact that I removed it and re-installed it numerous times, and that it was in the care of ever-abusive baggage handlers, it never lost zero.





The Heym's great big bolt, which cycles like a dream.

## FROM THE BENCH

The rifle's accuracy potential was clear from its first trip to the bench. I had two boxes of Nosler Safari ammo, featuring their monometal solid at 2,350 fps, which put three shots into a 3/4-inch group at the 100-yard target. Not too shabby for a cartridge that has been drastically overlooked for the last 50 years. The .404 Jeffery, with its .423-inch diameter bullet, was once the standard issue caliber for most of southern Africa's game rangers, but the initial loading – a 400-grain bullet at 2,150 fps – seemed anemic in comparison to the .375 H&H and the .416 Rigby.

However, modern loads like Nosler, Norma and Hornady bump the velocities up to 2,300-2,350 fps, depending on the brand. This puts the old cartridge nearly on par with

the .416s in the velocity and energy departments. Component brass is also available from those three companies, and it's good stuff.

For my trek, I was set on using the Woodleigh Hydrostatically Stabilized Solid, a monometal affair with a small cup at the front to create a shockwave for tissue destruction, yet still give the fantastic penetration of the non-expanding bullets. I cooked up a handload using Norma cases with an 80-grain charge of Alliant's fabulous Reloder 15, sparked by a Federal Gold Medal Match GM215M primer, and the Heym Express put those Woodleighs into a one-inch group at 2,280 fps. Hornady's great DGS 400-grain bullet liked the same powder charge, giving more than acceptable accuracy.

Recoil was more than manageable, with the Heym producing the classic "push" of the big bores, rather than the quick, stinging slap associated with the larger, bottle-necked magnums. The red NECG recoil pad takes much of the beating; it grips your shoulder well and is pliable enough to allow you to place your shot accurately without fear of excessive recoil.

I also cooked up a load for lighter game, as a bushpig hunt was on the initial menu (the bushpigs never came to the party), using Cutting Edge Bullets' neat 325-grain Safari Raptor. The all-copper bullets cruised along at 2,550 fps when set atop an 85-grain charge of Reloder 15, using the same Norma cases. The hollowpoint Raptor has proven to be a very accurate bullet, and in the .404 Jeffery that tradition continues.

Want a bit more “oomph” from your .404? Norma loads the wonderful 450-grain Woodleigh softpoints and solids at a muzzle velocity of 2,150 fps, and these shot very well, printing groups less than one inch. This takes the .423-inch bore to a new level, offering performance approaching the .450 Nitro Express.

## RELIABLE CRAFTSMANSHIP

To help deliver those well-placed shots, the Heym trigger is nice and crisp, breaking at right around four pounds with virtually no creep and very little overtravel. I like a bit of weight to a trigger on a safari gun. You don’t want a hair-trigger to go off at the wrong time when dangerous game is involved; the results could literally be deadly. I took a nice impala ram in South Africa with the .404 at just over 175 yards and put that bullet exactly where I wanted, with great confidence, partly due to that fine trigger.

The word “reliable” is an adjective that must always describe your choice of dangerous game rifle. You’ll want to work out any potential problems long before actually hunting dangerous game, and that includes verifying all your ammo will feed from the magazine every time.

The geometry of the proprietary Heym action is unique to each cartridge, as well as the magazine and follower. The cartridges click into the magazine, and even with the Woodleigh bullet’s flat meplat – which historically doesn’t feed well from a box magazine – the cartridges fed like they were greased. There were no rattles in the magazine (a sound that can be a dead giveaway when game is close) and the hinged floorplate held things in their proper place throughout the trip. The Heym Express holds four .404 Jeffery cartridges in the magazine, with a fifth up-the-pipe if you so choose, yet the well designed geometry allows the action to fit perfectly in my right hand while carrying it.

The safety is along the lines of the Winchester Model 70 safety: a three-position wing style safety located at the rear of the action on the right hand side. Forward is fire, the middle position allows the safe operation of the bolt for loading/unloading, and the rearward position blocks both the sear and the bolt



The trigger is nice and crisp, breaking at right around four pounds, with virtually no creep and very little overtravel.

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The big gold bead on the front sight is very useful on close up shots, yet fine enough for accurate shooting.



The integral rear sight has a wide "V" for 50-yard shots, and a finer groove for the 100-yard sight.

operation. I like this style safety on my bolt action rifles, firstly because I've used it for decades and muscle memory counts when you're in the thick of it, and secondly because you can verify the safety position with your thumb without taking your eyes off your target.

## IN COUNTRY

In Zimbabwe, the Express exhibited all of its finer points. When hunting elephant, I like to remove my rifle's sling and scope so a rifle that doesn't balance well will show itself immediately. The Heym rifle balanced perfectly, with a balance point just forward of the floorplate. This made the miles we put on our boots much easier as the rifle would carry very well in one hand.

The stock design also gave great confidence. The way the rifle came to my shoulder allowed me to use the positioning of the cheekpiece on my face for quick sight alignment, and this was wonderful in the thickets of Zimbabwe where an encounter with lion, buffalo, elephant or hippo is not out of the question.

I had booked the hunt through de-

Moulpied & Son Outdoor Adventures and my good friend Dave deMoulpied came along with me to film the affair. When we saw the bull we were after, PH Tim Schultz and his head tracker M'butha both gave us a nod of encouragement, and Dave said, very quietly, "Make sure this shot goes true." I did my best to keep my heart rate down and prevent the shakes from the tension and excitement, but with every step we took closer to the bull, my heart beat a little bit louder in my ears.

When M'butha spread the shooting sticks 16 yards away from the six-ton bull, the forend of the Heym Express slid into the groove, the safety was gently pushed forward and I quickly settled that gold bead on the point of the pachyderm's shoulder. To Dave's elation, the shot did go true, and two more went true behind it. I don't remember cycling the action, but when I watched the playback of the video, the straight bolt cycled almost effortlessly and I was able to operate the firearm without ever taking my eyes off the elephant. It's worth the price for a rifle that produces that level of confidence in a situation that tense. You risk your life when hunting dangerous game, and you need to

rely on every piece of gear. Heym's Express rifle can be relied upon to see that you get home safe.

## WHY HEYM?

So why would a hunter opt for this much more expensive German gun as opposed to something more run-of-the-mill? Well, it starts with the proprietary action. Having a proper sized action makes the balance of the rifle stay between the shooter's hands, where it belongs. This allows for a slimmer barrel contour and a lighter stock, while keeping the weight proper for a rifle of this caliber. The 24-inch Krupp barrel is a good piece of steel. This particular rifle shoots groups that you'd expect from a good .308 Winchester or .30-06 Springfield.

When you work the bolt, it feels different from any other bolt gun I've used in that there are no rattles or sloppy play in the action. It cycles like a dream. The Heym bolt diameter is 0.780 inches, larger than the Mauser 98 (0.700 inches) or the Brex magnum action (0.750 inches), so the Express can handle virtually any cartridge you'd use in a shoulder-fired rifle.



The integral scope mounts, designed for Talley rings.

Heym will make the stock to your chosen length of pull. The LOP of the rifle I used measured 14.5 inches, which fits me perfectly when wearing just a safari shirt. Good stock fit translates into less perceived recoil, and less recoil is always a good thing.

Heym also offers several options for the top of their receivers. Single square bridge, double square bridge or – like my rifle had – scope bases milled directly into the receiver to work with 19mm Talley rings. Milled scope bases equal one less moving part, and one less thing that can work loose. Mr. Murphy and his annoying law will definitely show up in the bigger caliber rifles, so less is definitely more.

The rear iron sights are milled onto the barrel, featuring the traditional wide “V” for the 50-yard sight and a flip up 100-yard sight with a small U-shape for a finer hold. The front sight sits atop a barrel band and features a 3/32-inch gold bead that works very well in all sorts of lighting.

Heym puts some classy appointments on as well, little things like a nice barrel band sling swivel and a rear sling swivel that looks like the letter “O” on the end of the screw. They use a straight bolt handle instead of angling it, so the knob sits about opposite the front of the generously sized trigger guard. The front of the trigger guard also holds the release for the hinged floor-plate.

The wood-to-metal fit on the Express is impeccable, and the checkering is nice as well. The slim, English-style forend has an ebony tip for a bit of contrast and a well-pronounced cheekpiece that feels very comfortable, even from the bench. The pretty wal-

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The author with his Zimbabwe bull elephant.

# Big Game Beast

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Model:** Heym Express by Martini  
**Action:** Bolt action  
**Caliber:** .404 Jeffery  
**Stock:** Walnut  
**Finish:** Matte black barrel & action  
**Barrel:** 24-in. carbon steel  
**Sights:** Express iron sights (50 and 100-yard)  
**Magazine Capacity:** Four rounds, fixed magazine with hinged floorplate  
**Overall Length:** 45.75 inches  
**Weight (empty):** 10.0 lbs.

**MSRP:** \$9,800

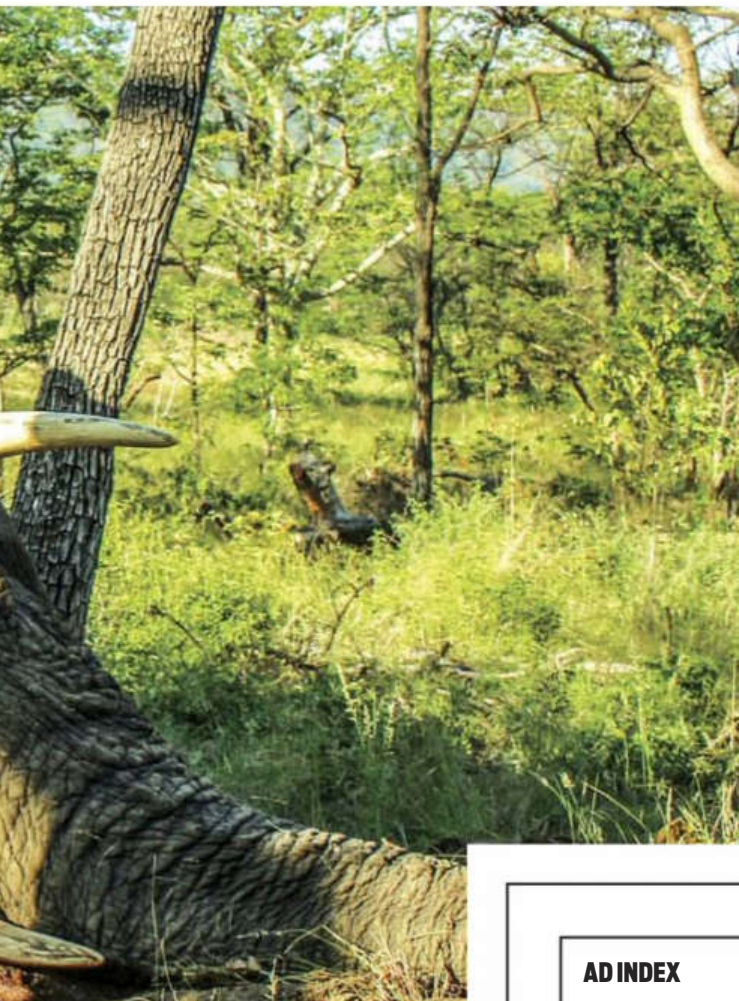


### HEYM EXPRESS BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

Load Name	Avg. Muzzle Velocity (FPS)	Avg. 3-shot 100 yd. Group (inches)	Best 100 yd. Group (inches)
Nosler Custom Safari 400-grain brass solid	2,380 fps	0.80	0.70
Woodleigh Hydrostatically Stabilized Solid 400-grain (Handload)	2,280 fps	1.05	0.80
Hornady DGS 400-grain (Handload)	2,270fps	1.25	0.90
Cutting Edge Bullets 325-grain Safari Raptor (Handload)	2,550fps	1.00	0.85
Norma African PH 450-grain Woodleigh Weldcore	2,140fps	0.85	0.75

Velocities measured with Oehler Model 35P chronograph, 5 yards from muzzle.





*"THE RIFLE'S ACCURACY  
POTENTIAL WAS CLEAR  
FROM ITS FIRST TRIP TO  
THE BENCH."*

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nut stock is cross-pinned to prevent it from cracking due to recoil. The rifle settles down nicely on shooting sticks and from the offhand position, with the added weight of the Swarovski scope. Without a scope, the rifle points like an extension of your arms. It's literally the most graceful rifle I've ever used.

If you've dreamed of owning a premium safari gun, give the Heym Express a long hard look. For the price of a low-end double, you can enjoy a fine bolt-gun that can hunt the whole. **GW**

#### AD INDEX

Advertiser	Page		
American Tactical Imports	25	Jantz Supply	40-41
Black Hills Ammunition	33	Les Baer Custom, Inc.	27
Caspian Arms Ltd.	87	Major Surplus & Survival	21
CZ-USA	37	Mec-Gar	45
Davidson's	7	Oriskany Arms Inc	99
Del-Ton	52	Otis	61
Dillon Precision	53	Rio Grande Custom Grips	47
Edwards Recoil Reducers	29	Rock River Arms	67
Food 4 Patriots	3	Secure Medical	93
Generic Testosterone	89	Smith & Wesson	35
GTUL	57	SSK Industries	85
Guncrafter Industries, LLC	49	Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.	11, 100
Heckler & Koch, Inc.	59	Taurus International	2
Hogue Grips	79	Umarex USA, Inc.	69
		Walther Arms	81



# Honey *With a* Gun

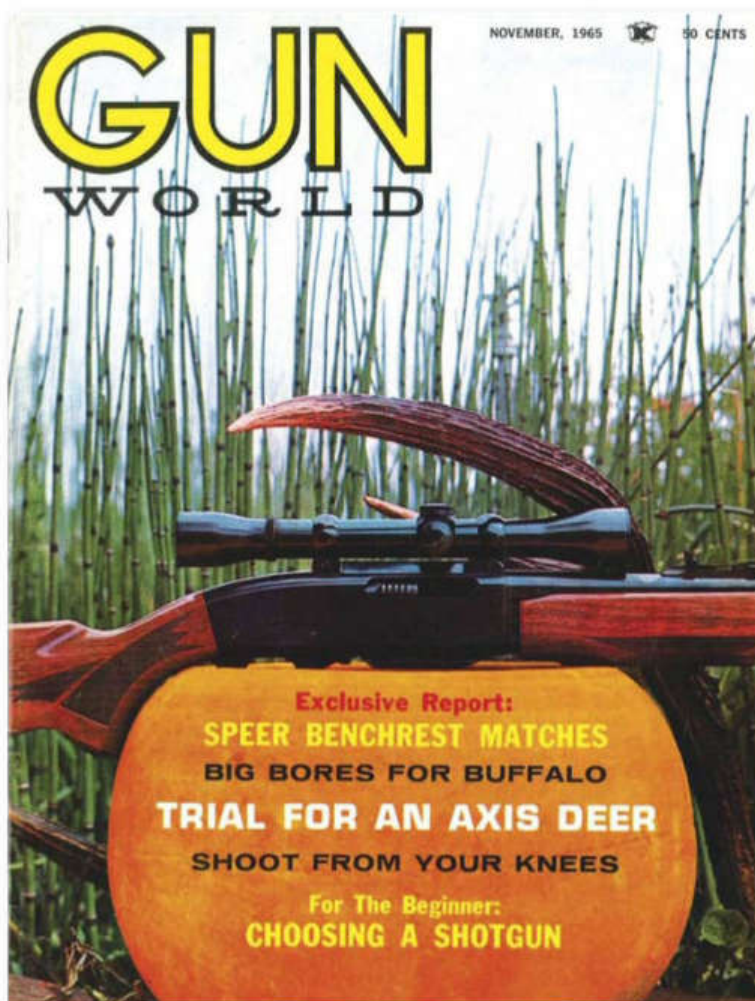
► BY CRAIG HODGKINS

**I**N THE FALL OF 1965, A TELEVISION SHOW featuring a derringer-packing female private detective—*Honey West*—hit American airwaves, providing an early starring role for actress Ann Francis. When *Gun World's* editorial team learned that Ms. Francis was new to the world of firearms, they asked her to share her views in our November *Guest Shot* column.

"I have found in life," she began, "you must respect a person in order to love him or her...I have yet to fall in love with guns, but I have become a fervid respecter of them. At the moment, I can best describe the relationship between me and guns as an infatuation—heady, exciting and a wondrous new experience. Yet slightly frightening, and, like all infatuations, imbued with mystery."

"My romance with guns started with an introduction—properly enough—by gun expert Clayton Shair, who has charge of all the guns on my TV show, and who always is on hand when we're shooting with a gun or camera."

"As he handed me my main prop—a pearl-handled derringer, which I carry in my boot—for the first time, he said, 'Mr. Derringer's a tricky fellow, Ann. He can be



the best friend you've ever had if you treat him right. If you don't, he could turn out to be your mortal enemy."

"What do you mean, treat him right?" I asked.

"With respect," he said flatly. "And that goes for every gun we'll use on this show."

"Since production on *Honey West* has been underway," she continued, "I have found the study and operation of guns a fascinating hobby...So far I have used a tear-gas gun, with real, live pellets; my derringer; and, during breaks in filming, have experimented with my co-star, John Ericson's .38 and the Walther Lugers used principally by the show's villains."

"I can pretty well sum up my philosophy concerning guns," she concluded, "with a brief quote I gave an interviewing journalist the other day. We were chatting on the set when one of the cast chimed in: 'Ann, tell the man about the pretty little gun you used in the scene this morning.'"

"Without meaning to be rude, I said, almost without thinking: 'There's no such thing as a *pretty little gun*.'"

**GW**

A Remington Model 760 in .280 Remington appears to be resting on a pumpkin (and the rack of an axis deer) for our November 1965 cover.

# Evolution Theory



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